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THE MAGAZINE THAT RIPS THE LID OFF PRO WRESTLING

INSIDE Wrestling

CONTENTS/MARCH 1991

4 **SINCERELY YOURS**
LOD Misery; Tunney Trouble; Paul E.'s Pablum

6 **EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK by Stu Saks**
The return of the terrible Tolos

8 **NAMES MAKIN' NEWS by Bill Apter**
All the latest news as of press time

10 **ON THE ROAD with Craig Peters**
Sports mascots are pretty common, but . . .

12 **BEHIND THE DRESSING ROOM DOOR by David Rosenbaum**
Some wrestlers would make great politicians

14 **THE INSIDER by Eddie Ellner**
Outrageous opinions on a variety of topics

16 **ON ASSIGNMENT by Liz Hunter**
Keep a sharp eye on the Hennig-Von Erich war

18 **WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**
Updates on four major mat stars

19 **CAPSULE PROFILE #176**
A mini-biography plus pinup of Terry Taylor

22 **NEWS FROM THE WRESTLING CAPITALS**
Eyewitness coverage of the month's major matches

24 **MATT BROCK'S PLAIN SPEAKING**
Gimmicks on parade, smelling a rat, and a slice of real life

27 **NO CHAIRS, NO FISTS, NOBODY BELIEVES IT!**
THE ONE-HOUR DRAW THAT MADE WRESTLING PROUD
And two fine wrestlers share in the tribute

30 **MICHAEL WALL STREET:**
PLANNING A HOSTILE TAKEOVER OF THE NWA
Money talks, and now Wall Street threatens all

34 **THE EARTHQUAKE FEUD RUMBLES ON:**
WILL HULK HOGAN BE THE VICTIM OF HIS OWN DEADLY OBSESSION?
The "Hulkster" won't rest until the Canadian crumbles

38 **STAN HANSEN LASSOS STING:**
"I FELT LIKE I HAD JUST SECONDS TO LIVE!"
Just another day at the office for the maniacal Texan

42 **BARRY WINDHAM: "MY FEW MINUTES AS STING WAS NAUSEATING!"**
The secretive Horseman tells all in this "Hotseat" interview

46 **JAKE ROBERTS VS. RICK MARTEL: BLIND OUTRAGE!**
It's an eye for an eye where "The Snake" is concerned

50 **ONE ON ONE**
Eddie Gilbert vs. Jeff Jarrett

64 **OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS**
Top 15 rankings in seven important categories

65 ***INSIDE WRESTLING* ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS**
The most comprehensive championship directory available anywhere

66 **BLAST FROM THE PAST**
This month in wrestling history

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INSIDE WRESTLING is published monthly by G.C. London Publishing Assoc., Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. Second Class Application Pending at Rockville Centre, NY, 11571 and Additional Offices. POSTMASTER: Send change of address notices to "Inside Wrestling," Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY, 11571. Single copy price $1.95 ($2.50 in Canada, £1.75 in U.K.). Not responsible for the loss or nonreturn of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. **FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES:** Jim Messing, J.E. Publishers' Representative, 11150 West Olympic Blvd., Suite 600, Los Angeles, CA, 90064, (1-800) 678-9321. U.S. & Canadian distribution by Kable News Company, 11 West 42nd St, New York, NY, 10036; International distribution (excluding U.K.) by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY, 10010; U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England. **Printed in U.S.A.**

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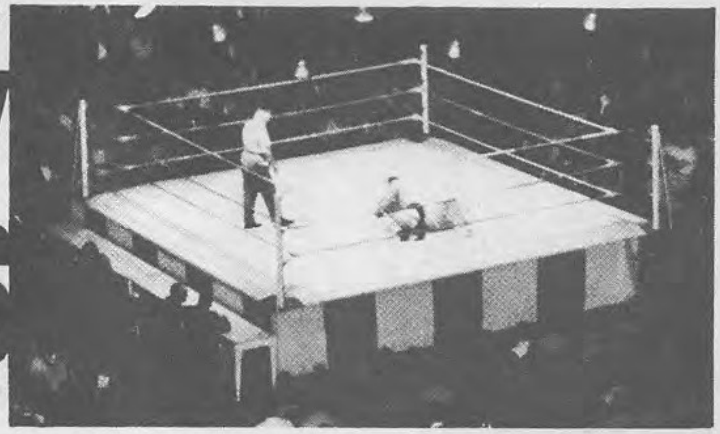

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LOD MISERY

I couldn't agree more with the cover story in the January 1991 issue ("Warning To Ultimate Warrior: The Legion Of Doom Will Lead You To Destruction"). Everywhere they've gone, Animal and Hawk have turned against the men they've called their friends.

Once a rulebreaker, always a rulebreaker. Animal and Hawk are as low as they come.

VINCENT BARNES
Lexington, KY

Lately, many people have been putting down The Legion of Doom for moving to the WWF. Where do they get off criticizing the greatest tag team of all time? Hawk and Animal may not have held a world tag team championship lately, but that's not their fault. They haven't wimped out from anything, and have backed down from no one.

The LOD might be in limbo now, but after they demolish Demolition (regardless of how many members there are), even the fools that doubt them will have to agree that Hawk and Animal are the greatest team ever.

JASON COHEN
Lexington Park, MD

I read with great interest the article in the January 1991 issue, and I must say that I don't agree with it at all. Look at it this way: Hawk and Animal are *tag team* wrestlers. To turn against The Ultimate Warrior would be of no benefit to either one of them. After all, they're not likely to split up anytime soon.

Why can't people simply appreciate the LOD for simply being what they are: the most awesome tag team force in the universe?

ROBBIE WILLIS
Trenton, NJ

If The Ultimate Warrior isn't careful, says reader Vincent Barnes, The Legion of Doom will turn against them, just like they did to Sting and Dusty Rhodes.

Remember when they brutally attacked Sting and hurt his neck? How about the time they double-teamed Dusty Rhodes and nearly drove a steel spike through his eye? This was the payment that Sting and Dusty got for being "friends" to Animal and Hawk.

If the Warrior continues to wrestle in six-man tag team matches with them, it's only a matter of time until he gets battered, too.

Scott Steiner helps his brother Rick warm up. Reader Tim Underwood is afraid that stories speculating on which Steiner is better may force the brothers to wrestle each other.

STEINER RIVALRY

I enjoyed the article in the January 1991 issue comparing Rick and Scott Steiner ("Special Analysis—The Steiners: Who Is Better?"). The only problem I have is that such comparisons will inevitably cause a rift between these brothers, and that would be a real shame.

I realize both of these men have vast talents, but to split them up now would deprive the wrestling world of one of the finest tag teams ever. Personally, I think they could be NWA World tag team champions for the entire decade of the '90s if they wanted to.

Like the article said, Rick vs. Scott makes for good conversation, but let's leave it at that. Let's hope these two honorable men continue to be best friends for the rest of their lives.

TIM UNDERWOOD
Providence, RI

UP IN SMOKE

I was absolutely disgusted to read the report in the December 1990 issue about flame throwing ("The *Inside Wrestling* Solution: Throw Flame? Lifetime Suspension!"). This sort of behavior should have been banned ages ago! Fire does not belong in the ring or anywhere near it. Burns are the most horrific injuries to sustain.

More frightening, though, is the threat to the fans and other people in the building. Having been involved in a house fire when I was 12, I know the horror that a blaze can cause. I wouldn't wish that on anybody.

The USWA should take heed of this report and ban anyone using fire—and all other federations should also follow suit.

CHARLOTTE GINNAU
West Sussex, England

WWF President Jack Tunney disregarded Rick Rude's First Amendment rights when he suspended him, says reader Paul Esner.

TUNNEY TROUBLE

I am appalled at what WWF President Jack Tunney has done. He has suspended Rick Rude for using the First Amendment of the Constitution to its fullest extent. Whatever happened to freedom of speech?

So what if Rude and Bobby Heenan made fun of Big Bossman's mommy? The worst part of all this is that Heenan must step in the ring with Bossman. Heenan is just a manager. He'll never stand up to the insane Bossman!

Heenan said he's sorry, and that should be enough. The first amendment should be upheld, not obliterated, by Jack Tunney.

PAUL ESNER
Staten Island, NY

BEEFCAKE BOOSTERS

I am writing in response to the letter written by Charles Mitchell in the January 1991 issue ("Beefcake Blessings"). Brutus Beefcake deserves the same kind of attention that Hulk Hogan received when he was injured. How can someone with a less severe injury (such as Hogan's ribs) receive more attention than the more seriously injured person just because of popularity?

Brutus is, and always will be, number-one in my book, and there are many other Brutus fans who feel the same. We all love you, Brutus, so have a speedy recovery!

ANNE LANHAM
Pekin, IN

I totally agree with Charles Mitchell in the January 1991 issue. When Hulk Hogan sustained a silly rib injury, Vince McMahon and everyone else in the WWF went crazy. They started a

(Continued on page 52)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Stu Saks
Editor-in-Chief

The world of wrestling was safer when a man by the name of John Tolos wasn't around. If you're not familiar with John Tolos, let me throw another name at you: Fred Blassie. Everybody knows Blassie's reputation for ruthlessness and sadism.

John Tolos was the only man I know who scared Fred Blassie.

I must admit that I have never met the man. He's had little to do with the sport during my 11-year stay at Inside Wrestling. But in the early '70s, when I would watch wrestling from the Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles, broadcast in Spanish on channel 41 here in New York, Tolos was the man I loved to hate.

He would do anything to win. Anything. His rivalry with Blassie was a classic. These men would rank in the top 10 of any wrestling historian's list of all-time rulebreakers. The action was so violent at the Olympic that promoters would not allow fans to sit in the first row at ringside.

Eventually, the popularity of wrestling in Southern California declined. The Olympic closed, and Tolos disappeared.

Now he's back, managing in the fledgling UWF, and I think he's back for good. At first, he took over the career of a wrestler named The Bounty Hunter. I guess he wasn't tough enough for the "Golden Greek," so he dumped him and is now working with veteran rulebreaker Bob Orton. Recently, Orton headbutted Brian Blair's valet, Honey, and Tolos was seen laughing all the way back to the dressing room.

The years certainly haven't mellowed John Tolos any. In the '50s, he and brother Chris terrorized the tag team ranks. In the '60s and '70s, Tolos was the scourge of L.A. With 10 years of sadism building in his system through the '80s, he could be the manager to watch—or watch out for—in the '90s.

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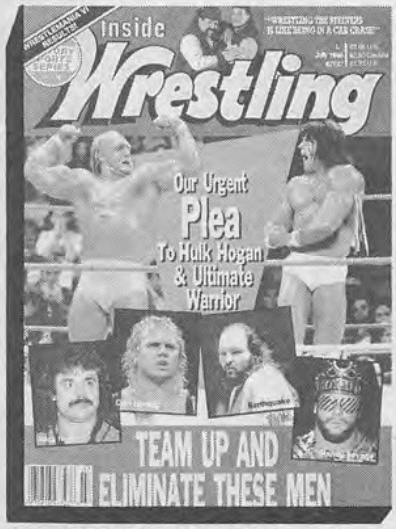

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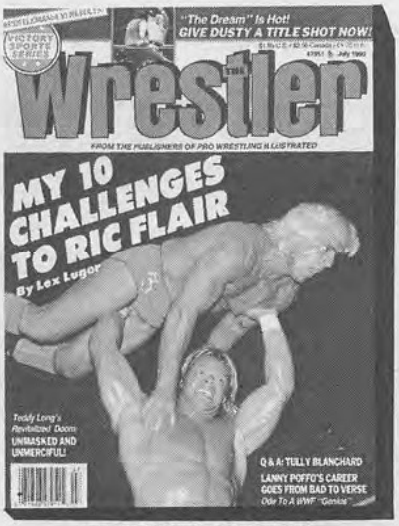
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NAMES MAKI

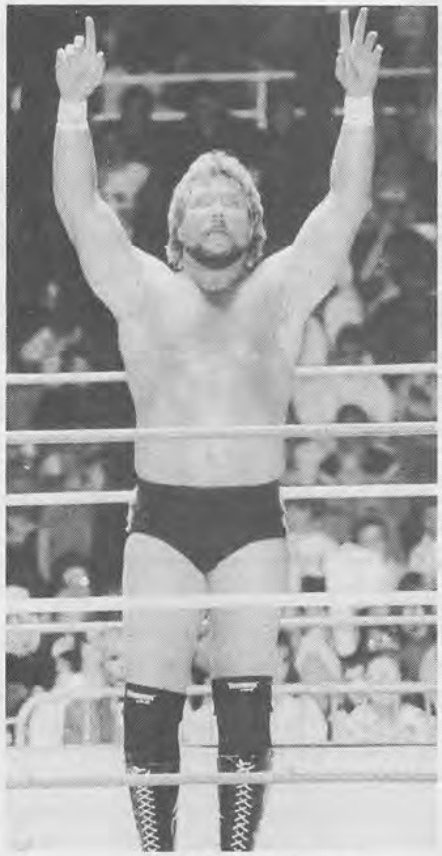
MORE TITLE CONTROVERSY in the WWF: ***Curt Hennig*** regained the Intercontinental championship from ***Kerry Von Erich*** on November 19 at the War Memorial Auditorium in Rochester, New York, but he was aided by ***Ted DiBiase*** en route to the disputed victory.

The "Million-Dollar Man" was serving as guest ring announcer for the bout, and DiBiase's unwarranted presence was the major factor in the title change. Throughout much of the match, "Mr. Perfect's" manager, ***Bobby Heenan***, distracted the referee. That allowed DiBiase, who was stationed at ringside, to reach into the ring and hit the "Texas Tornado."

CURT HENNIG

The point of dispute occurred several minutes later, as Hennig had gained control of the match. Hennig removed the protective padding from the top turnbuckle and attempted to whip Von Erich into it. Von Erich reversed the whip twice, but accidentally whipped Hennig into referee ***Dave Hebner***.

As Hebner fell to the mat unconscious, Kerry rammed Hennig's head into the unprotected ringpost. Von Erich followed up with a "tornado punch" and covered Hennig, but Hebner was still down. DiBiase ran in the ring, smashed the Intercontinental belt over Von Erich's head, and revived Hennig. "Mr. Perfect" caught Von Erich in a "perfectplex" just in time for the revived Hebner to make the three-count.



TED DiBIASE

Why did DiBiase go to such lengths to help Hennig regain the title? Sources within the WWF claim that a financial deal was struck between DiBiase and Hennig before the match began. Apparently, DiBiase did Hennig a favor in hopes of Hennig performing a similar service later, as DiBiase has some upcoming matches scheduled against WWF World champion ***The Ultimate Warrior***.

Frankly, I think this case of blatant interference merits a serious investigation by WWF President ***Jack Tunney***, but I have little hope that the federation's chief official will do much about it, especially considering how he's been acting lately.

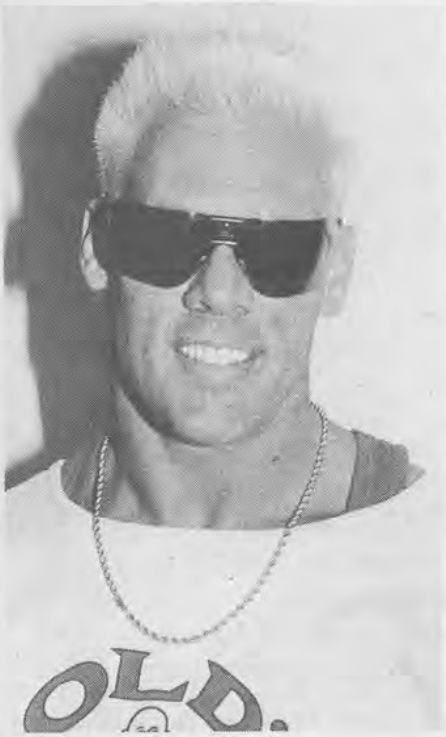
As we reported in the February 1991 issue, ***The Rockers*** won the WWF World tag team title from ***The Hart Foundation*** on October 30 in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. However, about a week after the match, Tunney voided the victory and returned the belts to ***Bret Hart*** and ***Jim Neidhart!*** After watching a videotape of the match, Tunney concluded that, since the top rope was knocked off the cornerpost during the second fall, it created an "unfair condition" for both teams.

HART VS. JANNETTY

Fans across the country have been angered by this decision, and rightfully so. The Spring 1991 edition of *Wrestling 91*, currently on sale, contains a petition calling for the impeachment of Tunney because of his recent controversial decisions. If you agree with me that Tunney has overstepped his authority, sign the petition and mail it in today!

N' NEWS

Bill Apter reporting...



STING

The WWF isn't the only place where strange decisions are being made. The NWA announced that it was not going to investigate the strange happenings of October 27, when ***Barry Windham*** appeared as an impostor ***"Sting"*** during the NWA World title match at Halloween Havoc '90 in Chicago. For more on this, don't miss Windham's comments in our "Hotseat" interview on page 42.

In other NWA news, the newly formed duo of ***Tommy Rich*** and ***Rick Morton*** is quickly becoming one of the hottest teams in the NWA. Morton, who teamed with ***Robert Gibson*** as ***The Rock 'n' Roll Express*** before Gibson severely injured his right knee in September, is grateful to Rich for picking up where Gibson left off.

"Robbie was hurt really bad, but he'll be back sometime in 1991," insisted Morton. "It's been a long time since I teamed with anyone else, but Tommy is proving to be a good partner and a good friend. It will be thanks to him that The Rock 'n' Roll Express stays alive for many years to come. I needed to stay sharp in a tag team format, and Tommy has been real good—no, he's better than good, he's the guy who's going to lead us to the NWA World tag team title!"

The USWA has been purchased by foreign investors! The Global Wrestling Federation, an international body of promoters with offices in Japan, Australia, Austria, and South America, bought the federation in late November. Under the terms of the agreement, the USWA, Georgia All-Star, and LPWA federations will now operate under the GWF banner.

"This is a great development for USWA fans," said broadcaster ***Joe Pedicino***, who was instrumental in bringing the USWA to the attention of Global promoters. "The USWA will continue to promote in Tennessee and Kentucky, but now we'll be going back into Texas, and promoting in Florida, too. In addition, the GWF will make every attempt to bring international talent into the United States. I'm sure the USWA will make some very big news very soon."

JOE PEDICINO

In other USWA news, ***Jeff Jarrett*** and newcomer ***Cody Michaels*** upset ***Doug Gilbert*** and ***"Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony*** for the USWA tag team title on November 24 in Jonesboro, Arkansas . . . Former AWA World women's champion ***Madusa Miceli*** has been very busy. She's branching out into kick-boxing, and has several bouts scheduled in Bangkok, Thailand. In addition, the beautiful blonde is featured in *Title Shot Wrestling,* a new VCR game distributed by Simitar Games . . . Newcomers to the WWF are ***The Undertaker,*** formerly known in the NWA as ***Mark Callous,*** and ***Kato,*** a mysterious masked man who has replaced ***Akio Sato*** in ***The Orient Express.***

MADUSA MICELI

That's all for now, fans. See you at the matches! □

ON THE ROAD

with CRAIG PETERS

AT FIRST, I was outraged by the contents of the WWF's giant egg which hatched at the Survivor Series. I even wrote a scathing editorial for the December 10 edition of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly* that read, in part:

For many long weeks before the Survivor Series, WWF fans—and the wrestling world in general—speculated as to the contents of the egg. Was it going to be a mystery wrestler? A muscleman signifying the birth of Vince McMahon's upcoming new bodybuilding federation? Something that would affect the outcome of the final battle for survival on Thanksgiving?

It was a turkey. In more ways than one.

What came out of the egg was an embarrassment, a pathetic attempt to emulate such sports mascots as the San Diego Chicken or the Philly Phanatic. And the fans knew it, too: Despite the loud music in the arena, a cascade of boos rained down on the "gobbledy-gooker" and was clearly evident on the broadcast at home. Some who were on hand at the Survivor Series said the "gobbledy-gooker" received more boos than even Sgt. Slaughter; I wouldn't be surprised.

What couldn't be heard at the Hartford Civic Center were the collective moans of thousands upon thousands of fans at home who saw their pay-per-view dollars go down the drain. If I were a fan who was uncertain about buying the Survivor Series and my interest was piqued by the egg and I wound up ordering the event, I'd be angry beyond belief.

Terry Taylor's "poultry in motion" was a fowl enough assault on our senses, but the "gobbledy-gooker" is strictly for the birds.

Now, on further reflection, I think I was perhaps a bit too harsh on the "gobbledy-gooker." True, the WWF went too far in building up anticipation for its new mascot, and there are undoubtedly some fans who were disappointed considering the money they paid for the pay-per-view event. But let's be objective: Virtually every college and professional sports team has a mascot. Why should the WWF be lambasted for having one, too?

The answer to that question, on the surface, is that they shouldn't. But, beneath the surface, a bigger issue is at stake here, an issue related to a criticism that I often read in mail to *Inside Wrestling* and our sister publications:

Why are your magazines so biased against the WWF?

The fact of the matter is that the WWF is the largest wrestling promotion in the United States. As a result, they come under the most scrutiny. And that's the way it should be. Because as the largest promotion, they have the largest responsibility to the sport as a whole. Everything they do is viewed by far more fans than anything any other federation does.

So when the WWF parades Tony Atlas in front of us and dubs him Saba Simba, I cringe. When Gene Okerlund and Lord Al Hays play safari on *Saturday Night's Main Event,* I cringe. When the Oktoberfest version of *SNME* features a sausage-stuffing contest, I cringe.

I can't deny that the WWF roster is packed with talented wrestlers. I can't deny that WWF pay-per-view events have featured some of the most exciting wrestling the sport has ever known. But one incredibly ridiculous piece of idiocy can overshadow a year's worth of fine wrestling. And in the WWF, it often does.

Are our magazines biased against the WWF? Not at all. Are our magazines critical of the WWF? Absolutely, just as we are critical of each and every federation in the entire sport. If it sometimes seems that we're dumping inordinately on the WWF, maybe it's because the WWF exhibits an inordinate amount of ridiculousness that needs to be pointed out.

There is a potential pitfall here, and it's a big one. We don't want to be so critical that we find ourselves reacting in knee-jerk fashion to anything unusual that the WWF does.

"Gobbledy-Gooker"

To a degree, I think that's what I did with the "gobbledy-gooker." In the long run, the WWF's new mascot won't mean much at all; five years from now, the "gobbledy-gooker" will probably be a trivia question. He certainly isn't worth getting all that excited about.

What I should have done in *PWI Weekly* was concentrate less on the mascot and more on the attitude of the WWF itself. And that's the real story of the Survivor Series: how the WWF sold a pay-per-view event on the basis of piquing interest about what would be contained in a giant egg rather than on the quality of the wrestling that would be exhibited in the ring that night.

Am I picking on the WWF? Not at all. But if they want to be considered a wrestling promotion, they ought to promote *wrestling,* not a man in a turkey suit.

No, the WWF shouldn't be lambasted for having a mascot. But the manner in which they presented that mascot to the fans was every bit as big an embarrassment as I initially felt the "gobbledy-gooker" to be. □

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$39.95/@ 120 min./WWF

#11 SUMMERSLAM '89 ☐

The Main Event: Hulk Hogan & Brutus "The Barber" Beefcake vs. Zeus & "Macho Man" Randy Savage. Title Match: "Ravishing" Rick Rude vs. Ultimate Warrior. Six-man Tag Team Bout: Demolition & King Duggan vs. The Twin Towers & Andre the Giant. Also: Dusty Rhodes vs. Honky Tonk Man, Jimmy Snuka vs. Ted DiBiase and much more!! A three-hour spectacular!

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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David Rosenbaum

JESSE VENTURA'S RECENT election as mayor of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, a small suburb of Minneapolis, got me thinking. If other wrestlers ran for political office, which offices would best suit them?

These days, pro wrestlers are popular enough to contend in any election. After all, Antonio Inoki was elected to the Japanese parliament. Now we have Mayor Body.

Some people might be put off by the idea of a 250-pound, musclebound madman running the country, but it sure beats a 150-pound indecisive weakling.

We need someone to stare Saddam Hussein in the eye and say: "Go ahead, make my day." And we need someone who can back up what he says.

In the United States of Wrestling, these men would be perfect for the job.

Governor. A governorship is often a steppingstone to the presidency (Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, and possibly Mario Cuomo), but the best governors don't use the office to serve their long-term national goals. They use the office to do what's best for their state.

Governors have no official say in the national law-making process. But, through lobbying and the right connections, they can protect their constituency. Meanwhile, they are responsible for preparing a yearly budget, and they hold veto power with regard to state law-making procedure.

It's a powerful office. It needs a powerful, yet trustworthy, man. There are several possibilities for the job: Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair, Sting, Lex Luger.

(Continued on page 56)

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THE INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

News Item: Rocks In Your Head

Like most eight-year-olds, my cousin Glenn Jameson is good for nothing—unless your idea of fun is to have ice water cascade down your face three minutes after you've fallen asleep.

He does, however, have a rock collection. One of his kits includes a sample of fossilized rocks with a brief description of each animal's origins. The maddening thing is that Glenn lost the paper identifying the specimens by name.

As I reread the childish descriptions—"I resemble coral, but am more complex"—it struck me how it was not rocks this collection described; it was professional wrestlers!

Think I'm kidding? Desperate for column material? Perhaps. In any case, match the wrestler with his outstanding attributes supplied by Glenn Jameson's Educational Fossil Collection.

The wrestlers:

Rick Morton . . . Dusty Rhodes . . . Tugboat . . . Coconut Kid . . . Norman . . . The Ultimate Warrior.

The attributes:

"I am sometimes mistaken for a clam."

"I am often mistaken for a plant."

"I swim in a most unusual manner."

Norman, aside from being one of the NWA's most popular stars, has become part of Eddie Ellner's "rock collection."

"I was named after a plump, spiny European mammal."

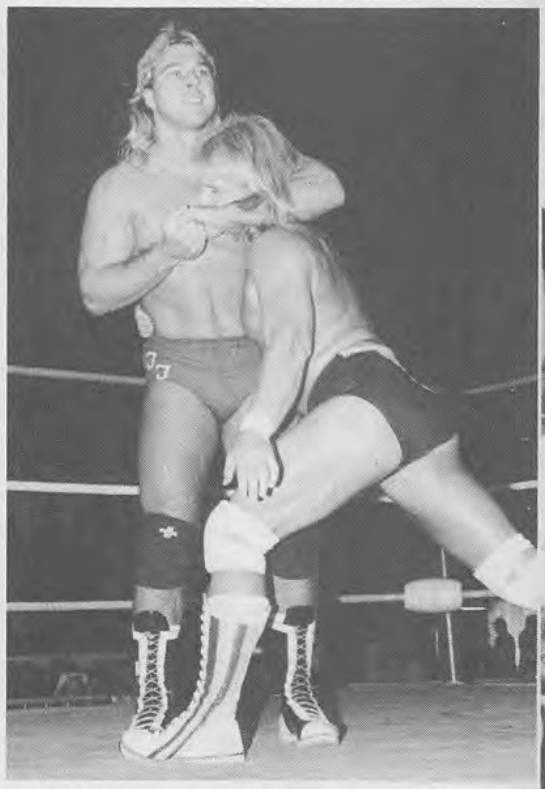
"I am sometimes used to build road-beds."

"I am often mistakenly called a 'petrified nut.' "

Any reader needing the correct matchups of wrestler and attribute hasn't been reading this column for very long.

News Item: Same Picture, Different View

Not too long ago, the WWF rid itself of some chicken fat in the form of Terry ("Red Rooster") Taylor. Environmentalists hailed this as a sign the WWF had stopped experimenting on poor, defenseless animals, a category which Taylor refined and perfected. Within weeks of leaving, however, Taylor dropped his feathers and is now wrestling in the NWA.



Terry Taylor may no longer be the "Red Rooster," but Ellner says he's just as embarrassing in the ring.

Save for the red mohawk, there is no distinguishing the WWF Taylor from his equally inept NWA counterpart. According to the ratings in this very magazine, Taylor is ranked sixth in the NWA. Sixth! This is quite an elevation for a man who couldn't get arrested in the WWF—except maybe for excessive silliness.

(Continued on page 58)

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ON ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER

BEING ON ASSIGNMENT doesn't always mean being where the big stories are every time. Yeah, I know, the bigwigs at *Sports Illustrated* always seem to be at every big event that takes place (if there's a death at a junior high school tiddlywinks match, they're there). But for an individual reporter, it's always the luck of the draw.

Luckily, *Inside Wrestling* and its sister publications have such a large staff of freelance reporters and photo journalists that we manage to have someone at every big event every time.

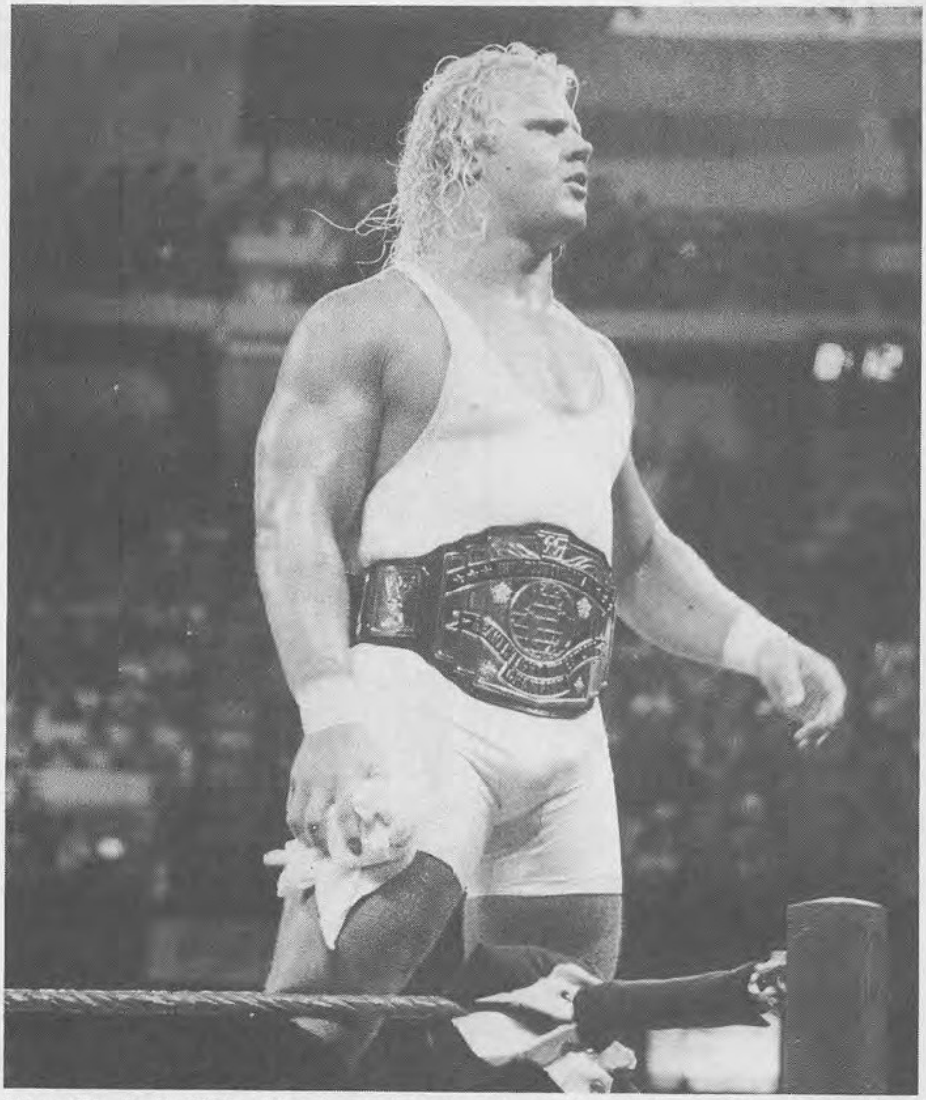
We were there for this big one, but I wasn't. Lord, I never expected Kerry Von Erich to lose the Intercontinental title back to Curt Hennig so quickly.

But it happened. On November 19 at the War Memorial Auditorium in Rochester, New York, the self-proclaimed "Mr. Perfect" regained the I-C belt from the "Texas Tornado."

Shocking, and for a number of reasons (none of which is Hennig's ability).

Hennig is, quite simply, one of the finest scientific wrestlers this sport has ever seen. When he was growing up and watching his father, Larry "The Ax", wrestle, he obviously was taking notes on his father's opponent, Verge Gagne, not his father.

Of course, having learned by sight the Gagne style of scientific wrestling, he threw in some good ol' Hennig rulebreaking for good measure and came up with a mix that's definitely championship material.



When "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig regained the Intercontinental title from Kerry Von Erich, Liz Hunter was shocked that Kerry lost the belt so quickly.

In the WWF, Hennig's scientific skills outshine almost everyone else, although Ted DiBiase and Bret Hart would give him a good run for his money.

Anyway, it was all so shocking because Kerry is such a fine wrestler, too. Maybe he's slowed down over the years, but he still has the physique and he still has the skills.

If these two guys ever decided to put aside the hatred and just

(Continued on page 60)

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☐ **Nov. 1989:** Exclusive Photos Of A Lifetime! Hulk Hogan—From The Cradle To The Throne. Plus: Rhodes (1982), Flair (1980), Snuka (1981), Sullivan (1973), Rich-Sawyer (1984), Lord Al Hays (1973). Classic Ratings (1979). Future Classics: Savage, Steamboat.

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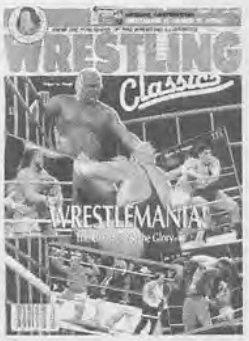
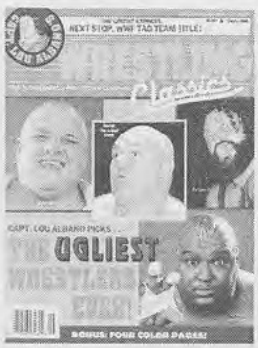
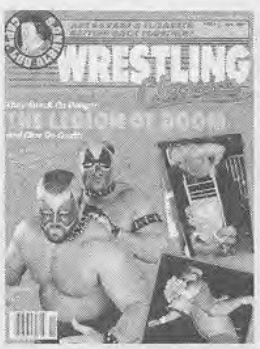


☐ **July 1990:** WrestleMania! The Grandeur & The Glory: An In-Depth Look At WrestleManias I-V. Classic WrestleMania VI Foldout: Hogan-Ultimate Warrior. Classic Ratings (1985). Future Classics: Skyscrapers-Road Warriors, Lawler-JYD.



☐ **Sept. 1990:** Capt. Lou Albano Picks . . . The Ugliest Wrestlers Ever! Firpo (1972), Bundy (1964), Mayne (1973), Curry (1965), Steele (1978), Abdullah (1976), Rhodes (1982), Kabuki (1982), Missing Link (1985). Classic Ratings: (1982). Future Classics: Orndorff, Orient Express.



☐ **Nov. 1990:** The Legion Of Doom—They Dine On Danger And Snack On Death: Six stories tracing The Road Warriors' brilliant career. Bonus: The Greatest Tag Teams in history. Classic Ratings: (1983). Future Classics: Savage-Elizabeth, Kevin Von Erich.

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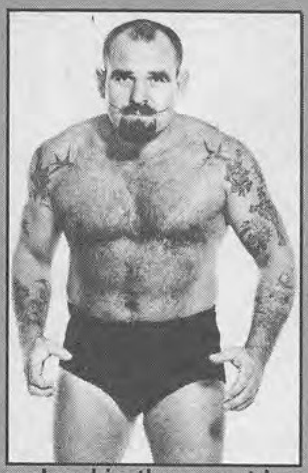
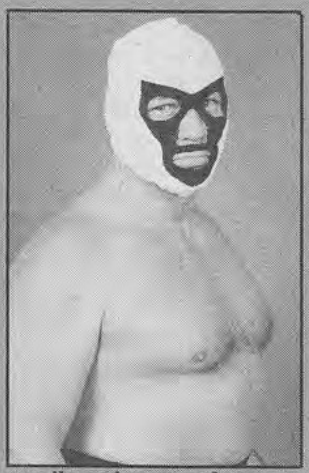
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



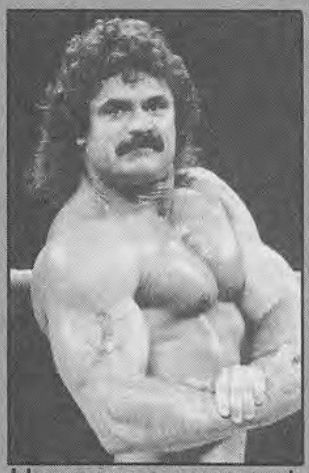
KARL VON HESS

This rugged German rulebreaker, who terrorized Antonino Rocca, Chief Big Heart, and other fan favorites in the '50s and '60s, is now retired from the mat game and living in California. The wily Hess still keeps involved in the sport by offering grappling tips to youngsters at Slammer's Gym in Los Angeles. Predictably, the famous Von Hess ego is still intact. "I don't see a rulebreaker today who could match my skills," he says.



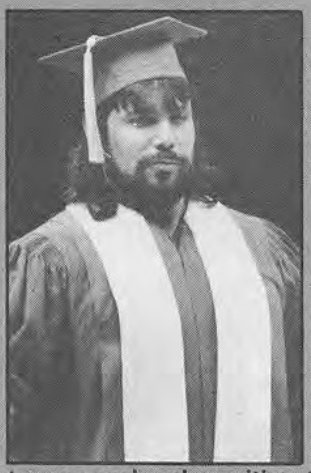
MR. WRESTLING II

This masked wrestler was the hero of Southern wrestling fans throughout much of the '70s and '80s. Today, Wrestling II is semi-retired, making occassional appearances on independent cards in Hawaii, where he now resides. "I really miss my fans, especially in Georgia," said II, who was voted Most Popular Wrestler of the Year in 1980. "I'll never forget all my great matches and all the great folks who supported me in my career."



RICK RUDE

The "Ravishing One" was suspended in October by WWF President Jack Tunney for making outlandish remarks about Big Bossman's mother. Currently, the flamboyant rulebreaker is relaxing on the beach near his Florida home. However, a source close to Rude claims that if Tunney doesn't lift the suspension soon, he'll make a move to another organization. "He's just too competitive to rest on his laurels for long," said the source.



LANNY POFFO

Currently, the "Genius" is taking some time off from the mat wars to promote his book of poetry, *Leaping Lanny: Wrestling With Rhyme.* In addition to mulling offers from several independent federations, Poffo has "invited himself" to several universities to teach the finer points of poetry. "I'm devoting all my time to honing my intellectutal capacity," Poffo informed us. "The world will benefit from me sharing my vast knowledge."

INSIDE WRESTLING

176

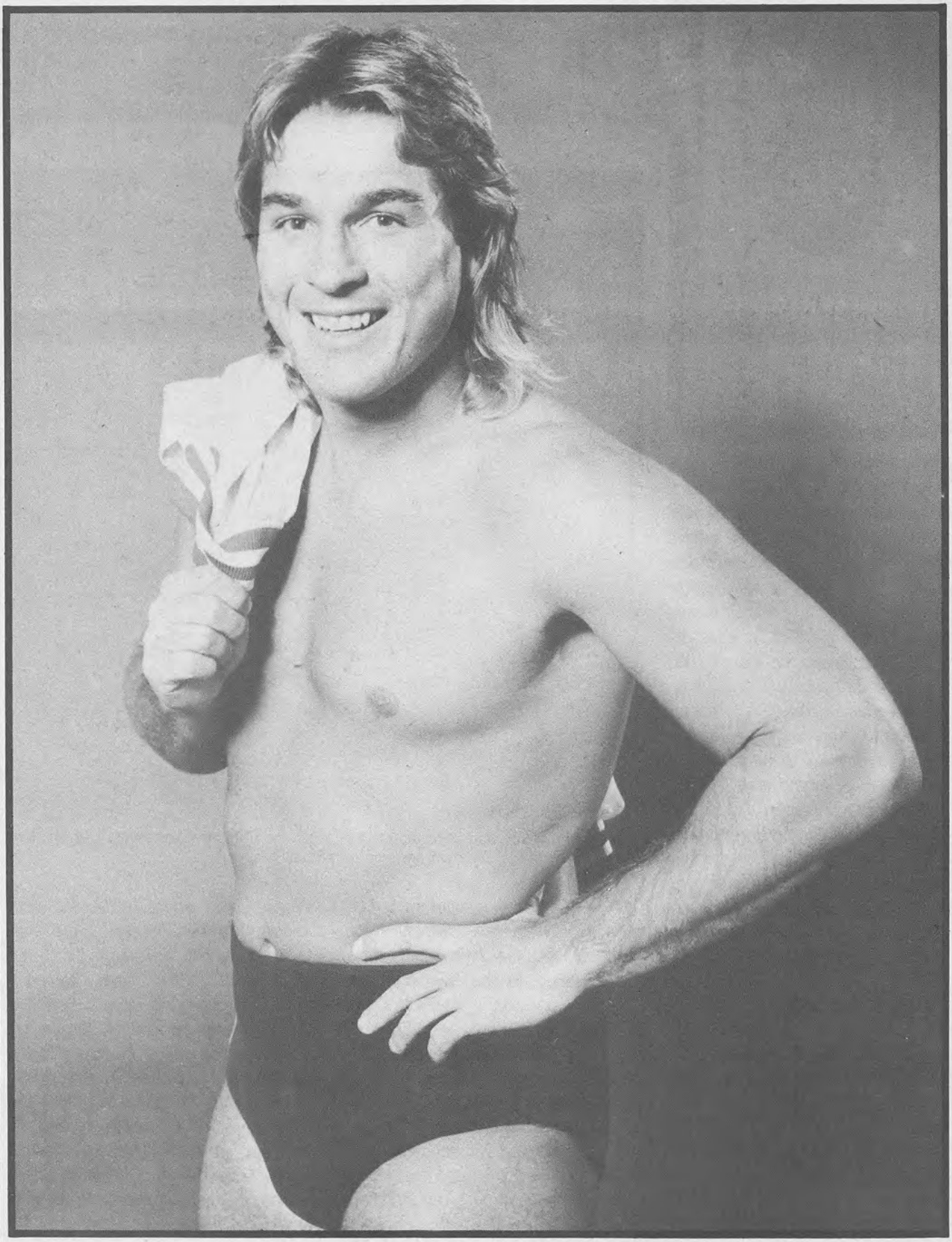
CAPSULE PROFILE

TERRY TAYLOR

When Terry Taylor returned to the NWA in 1990, one of his first opponents was The Iron Sheik, whom he defeated convincingly on several occasions.

AS A YOUTH in Vero Beach, Florida, Terry Taylor played several different sports *("But wrestling was always number one")* ... Was trained for the pros by the legendary Eddie Graham *("He trained me hard and he trained me well")* ... Made his pro debut in Florida in 1979 ... Was voted 1980's Rookie of the Year by the fans *("That's an honor that will always mean something to me")* ... Teamed with Bobby Fulton for a while; they were the first team to be known as The Fantastics *("Bobby made a much better combination with Tommy Rogers, though")* ... Began wrestling in the Mid-South area, and is credited with running Nikolai Volkoff and Krusher Khrushchev out of that area *("Believe me, I was glad to see them go")* ... Feuded heavily with "Dr. Death" Steve Williams and captured the Mid-South television title from him *("Doc can be a very dangerous man")* ... Won the North American title—Mid-South's top belt—from Ted DiBiase on March 13, 1985, in Shreveport, Louisiana *("DiBiase wanted the match; I didn't ask for it")* ... Lost that belt to The Nightmare in Shreveport on May 22 *("He was a mysterious character")* ... Next stop was the NWA, where he captured the National title from Black Bart on September 22 in Atlanta *("That was a really intense match")* ... Lost it to Buddy Landell at Starrcade '85 on Thanksgiving night in Greensboro, North Carolina *("Landell is one man I have a hard time respecting")* ... Returned to the Mid-South area (which had become the UWF) and teamed with Chris Adams; they beat Sting and Rick Steiner in the finals of a February 7, 1987, tournament to fill the vacant tag team title *("Chris was a great partner at the time")* ... After losing the belts to Sting and Steiner on April 12, Taylor turned against his partner *("It was more out of frustration than anything else")* ... Seriously injured in an auto accident in June; he had to have his appendix removed *("I was determined to get back in the ring as soon as possible")* ... Went to World Class, where he feuded with Adams, and won the Texas title from Matt Borne on February 26, 1988 *("I'm proud to have won championships in so many places")* ... Forfeited that belt when he failed to appear for a title defense against Kevin Von Erich on July 4 ... Started in the WWF, where Bobby Heenan made him the "Red Rooster" *("I really needed his help, or so I thought")* ... Turned against Heenan in December 1988 and defeated the manager in the ring at WrestleMania V on April 2, 1989 *("That was extremely satisfying")* ... In 1990, returned to the NWA as Terry Taylor *("The 'Red Rooster' is dead and buried!")* □

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



TERRY TAYLOR

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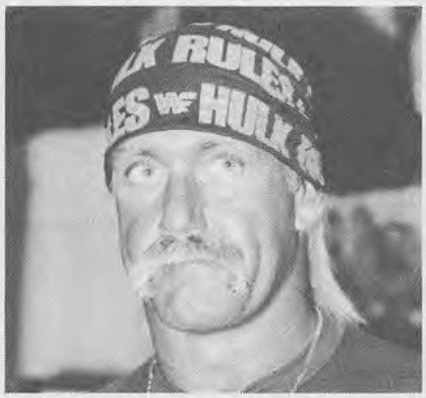
CHIGAGO, IL
By Martin Lee

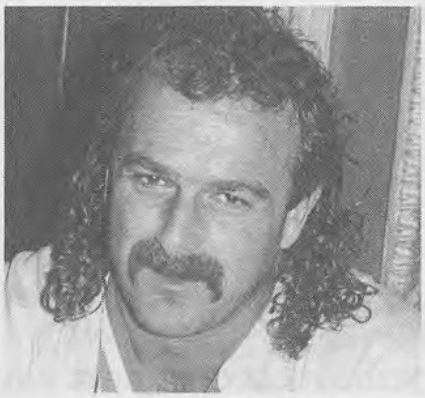


HULK HOGAN
vs.
EARTHQUAKE

The feud between Hogan and Earthquake has been raging for months, and it continued here in the Windy City. Neither man was able to gain a clear advantage, but when they both ended up fighting outside the ring it was Earthquake who beat the count back in. But 'Quake wasn't finished. He delivered several aftershocks to the "Hulkster," who had to be taken back to the dressing room on a stretcher.

OTHER BOUTS: Saba Simba beat Tom Stone . . . Dustin Rhodes pinned Buddy Rose . . . The Warlord pinned Superfly Snuka . . . Tugboat beat Dino Bravo . . . Big Bossman beat Bobby Heenan & Curt Hennig in a handicap match . . . Kerry Von Erich and Curt Hennig battled to a double-disqualification.

DETROIT, MI
By Sam Ulerman



JAKE ROBERTS
vs.
RICK MARTEL

In Detroit, Roberts got what he'd long been waiting for: the chance to gain revenge on the man who had blinded him. For a while, it appeared as though Roberts would be successful in his quest, but "The Model" had other plans. He took a substance out of his trunks and rubbed it in Jake's eyes. Blinded, Roberts grabbed the referee (thinking he was Martel) and DDT'd him. "The Snake" was immediately disqualified.

OTHER BOUTS: Saba Simba beat Bob Bradley . . . Koko B. Ware defeated Black Bart . . . The Warlord pinned Jimmy Snuka . . . Paul Roma & Hercules beat The Bushwhackers . . . Big Bossman defeated Bobby Heenan . . . The Legion of Doom beat Pat Tanaka, Kato, & Mr. Fuji . . . The Ultimate Warrior beat Randy Savage by countout.

DALLAS, TX
By Joyce Dillon

AL PEREZ
vs.
MATT BORNE

This was a best-of-three-falls bout for Perez' Texas title. The crafty Perez won the first fall, while Borne, an expert brawler, took the second. The final fall was a different story. Both men tried everything they could to get the advantage, but whatever they tried wasn't good enough. Finally, the time limit expired and the match was declared a draw.

OTHER BOUTS: California Stud & Steve Austin drew with Steve & Shaun Simpson . . . Terrance Garvin defeated Angel of Death . . . American Ninja pinned Tony Falk . . . John Tatum pinned Action Jackson.

WRESTLING CAPITALS

MEMPHIS, TN
By Mark Mitchell

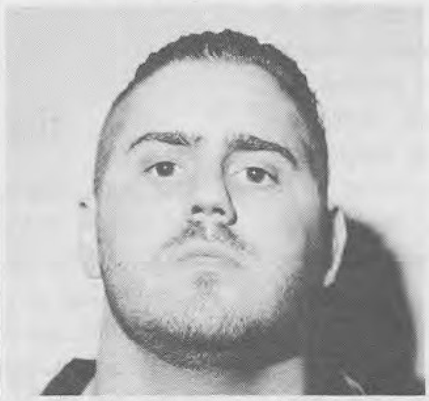
EDDIE GILBERT
vs.
JEFF JARRETT

The two enemies squared off in a "coward waves the flag" match (a cornerman must wave a flag for his man to concede). Eddie Marlin was in Jarrett's corner, and Sam "Bass" Lowe was in Gilbert's. Doug Gilbert attacked Marlin and waved his flag. Referee Jerry Calhoun, thinking that it was Marlin waving the flag, stopped the match and declared Gilbert the winner.

OTHER BOUTS: King Cobra beat Jeff Gaylord by disqualification . . . Tojo Yamamoto defeated Jamie Dundee . . . Dan Davis pinned Joey Maggs . . . Tony Anthony & Doug Gilbert beat Chris Champion & Brickhouse Brown . . . Jerry Lawler & Bill Dundee defeated Sheik Hussein, Sheik Fabiano, & Samurai.

PORTLAND, OR
By Kenn Jones

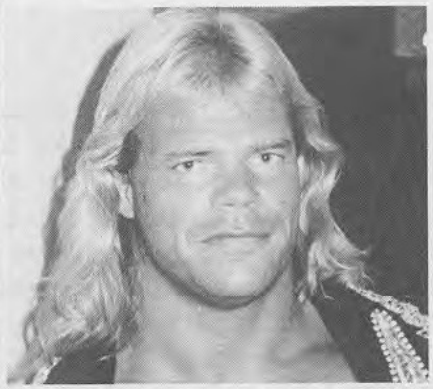
SCOTT NORTON
vs.
BRAD ANDERSON



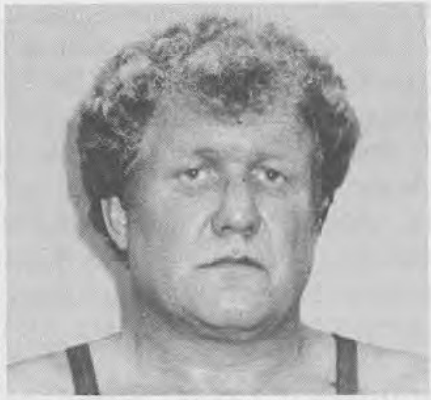
This was an interesting matchup, with the powerhouse Norton matched against the young and aggressive Anderson. For a while it appeared as though Norton would simply overpower his opponent. But Anderson, acting like his relatives in The Four Horsemen, started using illegal tactics. When referee Sandy Barr tried to stop him, Anderson started pushing Barr. As a result, Barr disqualified him.

OTHER BOUTS: Steve Doll defeated The Grappler . . . Larry Oliver drew with Doug Masters . . . The Equalizer beat C.W. Bergstrom . . . John Rambo & Larry Oliver defeated Ricky Santana & Al Madril.

KANSAS CITY, KS
By Randy Sammons



LEX LUGER
vs.
HARLEY RACE



Fans at Memorial Hall were wondering all night if Race, the seven-time former NWA World champion, still had it in him to beat one of today's greatest grapplers, a man who had recently lost the U.S. title and was eager to prove himself again. Race pulled out his usual arsenal of scientific maneuvers, but Luger successfully countered them. In the end, Luger's power was too much for the veteran Race, and he scored the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Mike Rotundo pinned Allen Iron Eagle . . . Norman beat Barry Horowitz . . . Big Cat & Junkyard Dog defeated The Moondogs . . . The Iron Sheik pinned Brad Armstrong . . . Brian Pillman pinned Buddy Landell . . . The Southern Boys beat The Freebirds . . . Sting pinned Sid Vicious.

Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

JACKSONVILLE, FL: It's the holiday season and the federations are on parade. So what do they do? Like Macy's in Manhattan, they pull out all their floats and gimmicks. We'll get to the WWF later. First let's deal with the NWA, which never used to be much of an offender but has recently done everything in creation to destroy a reputation that took over 80 years to attain. I'm talking about The Black Scorpion and his magic tricks, something I can really do without. This Scorpion fella ought to spend a little more time wrestling and a little less time watching David Copperfield how-to videos. Maybe he'd have the World belt by now. Actually, the big news here on Clash of the Champions night is that the NWA is *not* going to investigate that scam at Halloween Havoc '90 on October 27. Remember Sid Vicious pinning the impostor Sting? Remember how The Four Horsemen were behind the whole thing? Yeah, another magic act. Well, the NWA isn't investigating, and the NWA brass aren't talking. The whole world watched one of the most embarrassing moments in NWA history, and now the federation's going to just sweep it under the rug? I'm not sweeping. I'm investigating, folks. It's my job.

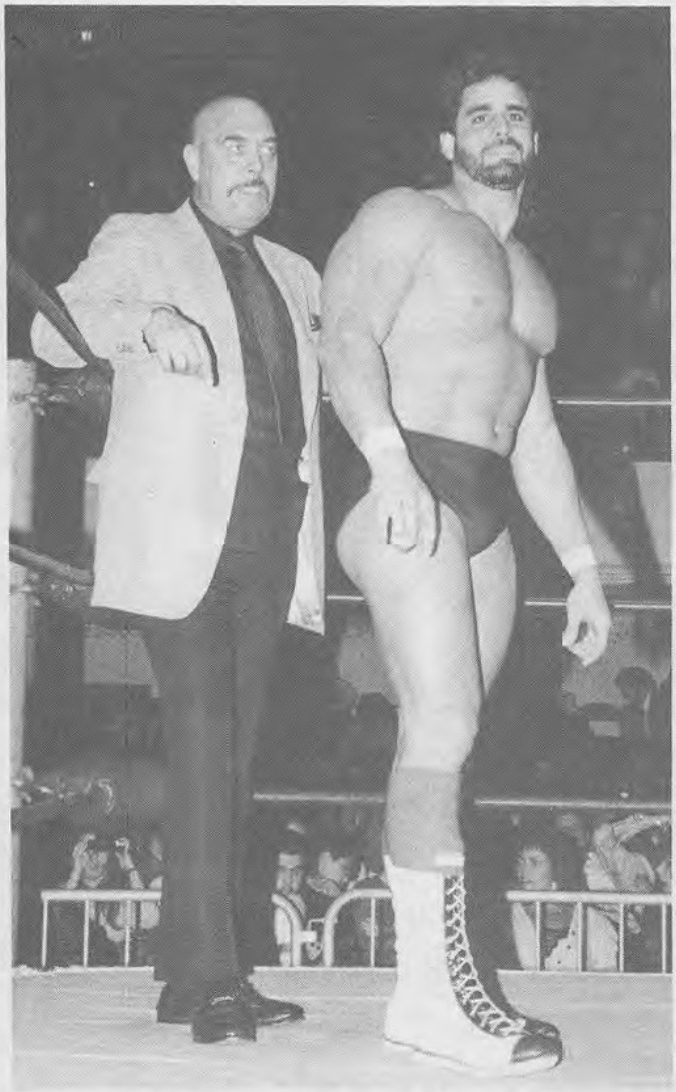
HARTFORD, CT: The "gobbledy-gooker." Fry him. Scramble him. Poach him. Yeah, poach him. That's what they should do. Cook his living brains out. Get rid of the sucker before he gets rid of us. The WWF has laid some pretty big eggs before, but this was the biggest. Of course, we all saw it coming, but what the heck were we supposed to do about it? Hey, we're journalists. Our job isn't to change the course of history, just write about it. So when the WWF introduced this gigantic egg the month before the Survivor Series, we laughed, we howled, we protested. Yeah, some of us even had a few extra belts the night before the Survivor Series. We knew what was coming, we expected the worst, and we got it. Listen, I've been on this beat for more years than I can remember, and the WWF has pulled more foolish stunts in the past

THE "GOBBLEDY-GOOKER"

four years than all the federations in the sport combined did for the previous 50. This sport doesn't need another version of the San Diego Chicken. What it really needs is Ted DiBiase vs. Bret Hart and more precious moments of wrestling the way it used to be. The Survivor Series—a pretty decent evening of wrestling to begin with if you throw out the egg man—reached a high point when Hart and DiBiase went head-to-head at the conclusion of match number two. Forget brawling, gimmicks, and all the other junk. DiBiase and Hart just did it the right way. The survivor was DiBiase, but who really cared? It says something about the WWF that it can be so bad and so good on the same evening. Maybe one of these days they'll leave the bad behind.

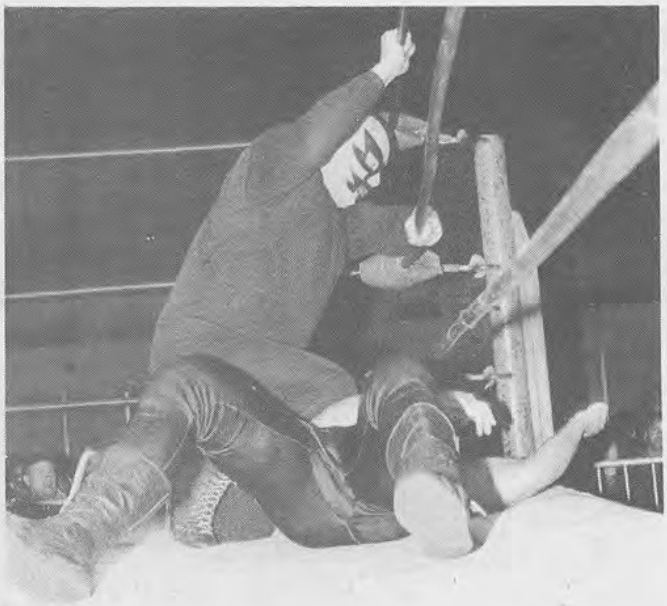
DALLAS, TX: I smell a rat, the same rat everybody else around here is smelling these days. The Texas Wrestling Federation recently named Al Perez as its first heavyweight champion. The only problem is that Gary Hart, Perez' former manager, is a TWF official and was on the board that made the decision. Give us a break!

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor



GARY HART & AL PEREZ

Actually, give me a scotch—and make it a double! It's hard to believe the TWF can make such a damaging decision, a decision that can destroy the reputation of the entire federation. One question, and one question only: How much power does Hart have in this federation? Okay, a second question: Is Perez still under contract to Hart? I wonder if the TWF bothered answering that question before it welcomed Hart into its inner circle. The TWF is asking for controversy, but, of course, maybe that's the whole idea. Get people thinking. Start some rumors. Get some fannys into the seats. In doing so, risk the integrity of the sport. Is it really worth it? Some very disturbing things are happening in wrestling these days and, when you get right down to it, it all could have been avoided. Maybe the whole damn world's gone crazy. I don't know. I'm past the understanding phase. I'll just go on reporting.



BLACK SCORPION VS. STING

NEW YORK, NY: Back in the only town where things make sense. Seriously. In New York, slime is slime. People are what they make themselves out to be. Sometimes they try to hide it, but the veil is always too thin. Wrestling wasn't born in New York City, but some of its greatest moments have taken place here, and that's no surprise. Cosmopolitan city, circus atmosphere. But you head downtown and there's culture: movies, theatre, museums, fancy restaurants, the works. Out on the streets there are drug pushers, prostitutes, crime, the works. Real life. Real people. I wonder what they think about the "gobbledy-gooker." I wonder what they think about Black Scorpion's magic tricks. In this town, gimmicks were never worth much. Performance was always what mattered. Performance is always what matters. Some things never change, even if the powers that be keep trying to change them. □

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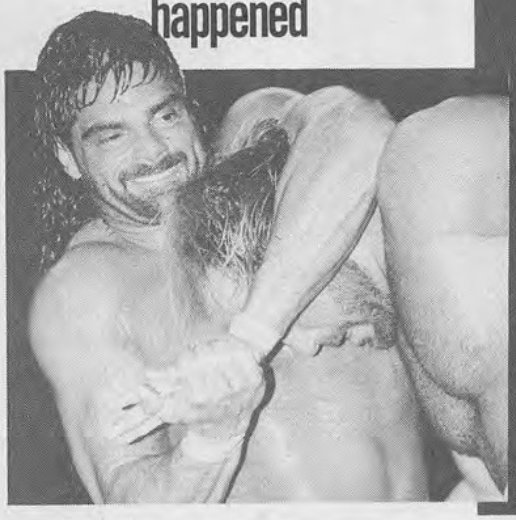
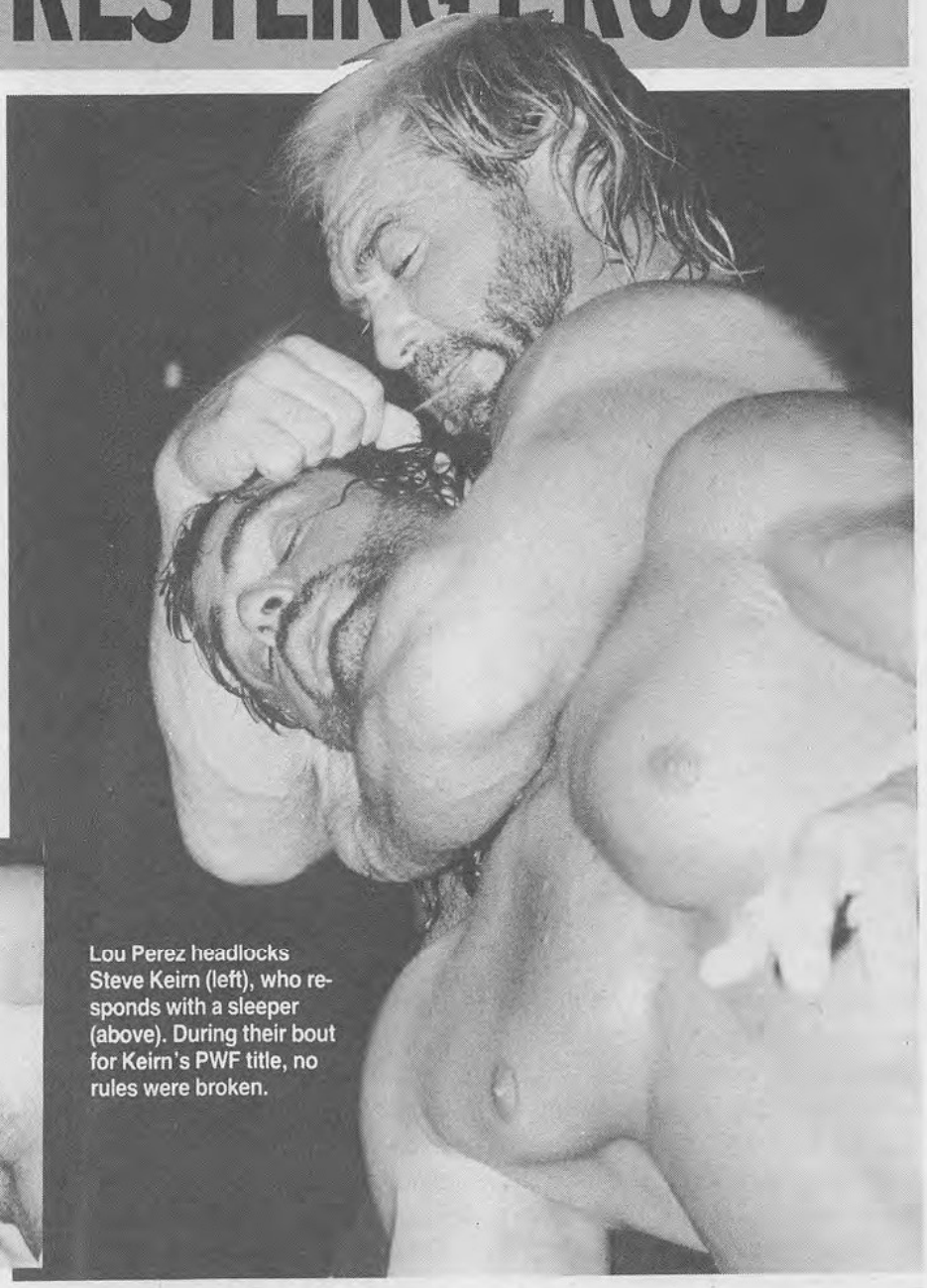
No Chairs, No Fists, Nobody Believes It!

THE ONE-HOUR DRAW THAT MADE WRESTLING PROUD

Wrestlers cheat, managers interfere, and matches are tainted. That's the way things work in pro wrestling . . . but not always. When Steve Keirn and Lou Perez climbed into the ring recently in Florida, something special happened





Lou Perez headlocks Steve Keirn (left), who responds with a sleeper (above). During their bout for Keirn's PWF title, no rules were broken.

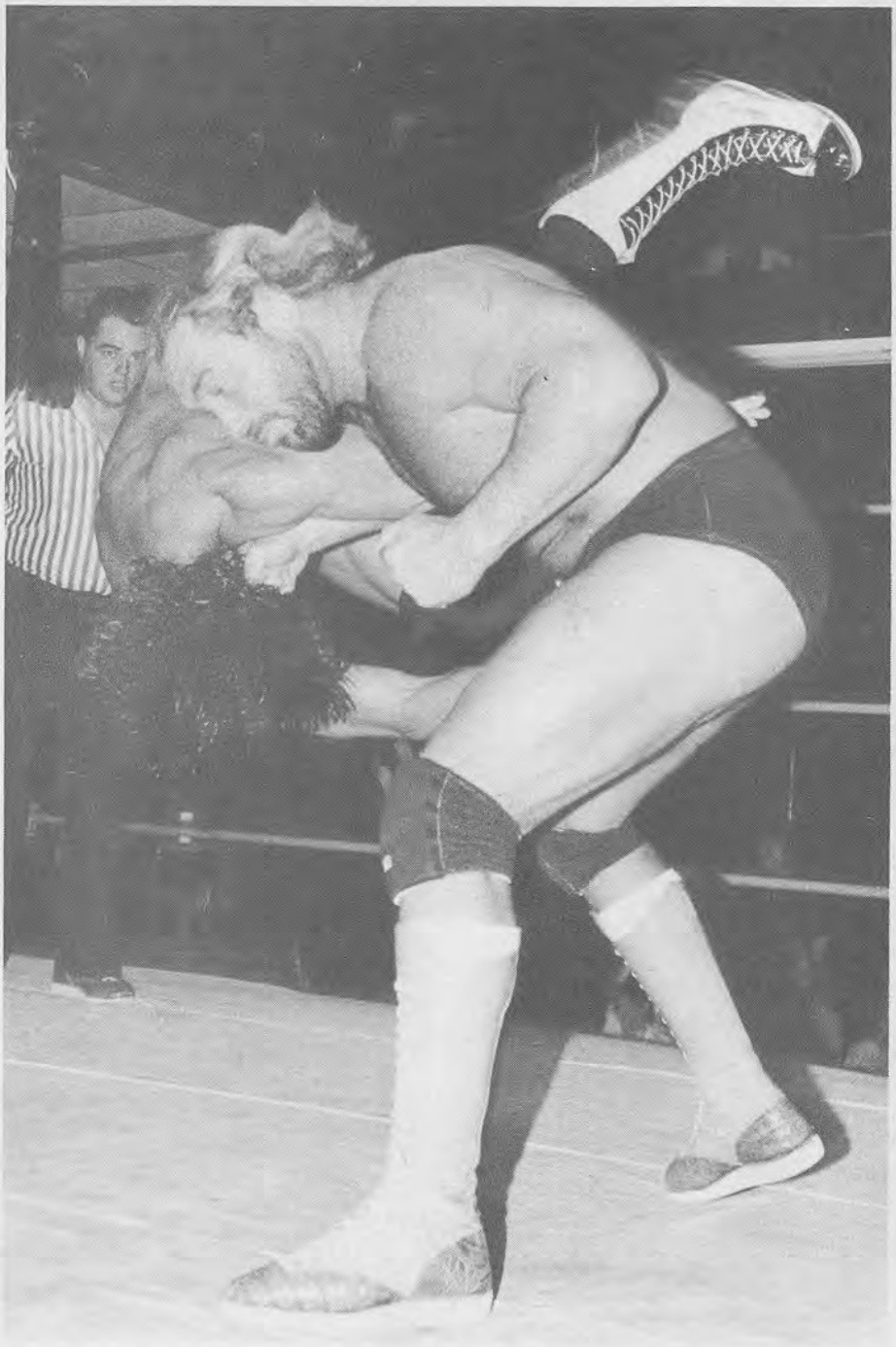
By Bill Apter

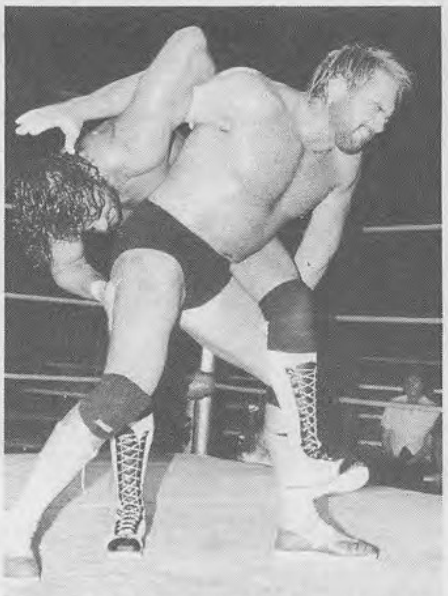
THINK ABOUT IT. When was the last time you saw a match in which no rules were broken, in which the two wrestlers didn't count on outside interference, circumvent the rulebook, do something behind the referee's back, or just plain cheat?

When was the last time you saw two talented, intense wrestlers rely on their God-given and work-hardened skills to win a match, knowing full well that they'd rather lose with dignity than win in disgrace?

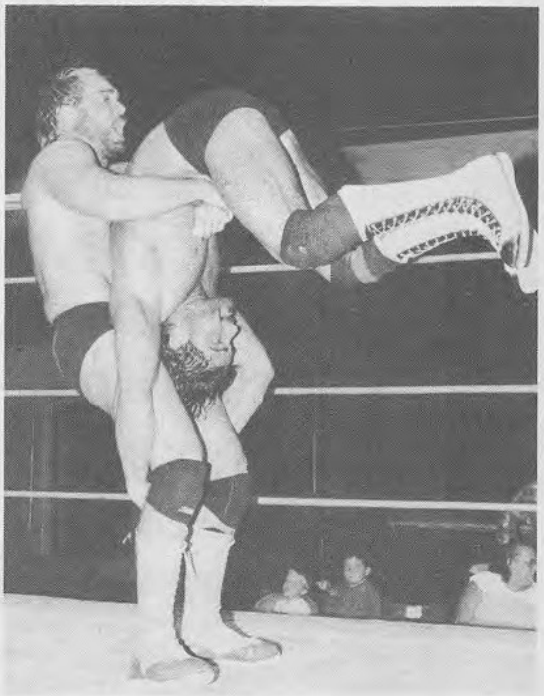
When was the last time you saw a match in which chairs and foreign objects were not part of the wrestlers' repertoires, in which it was hard to tell who was the rulebreaker and who was the fan favorite, in which every fan in

Photos By Joe Mandracchia & Dana Lunden





Keirn beel-throws Perez (left) and goes for the piledriver (below). Perez locks on an abdominal stretch (above).



the audience stood at the end to cheer the proud wrestlers?

Imagine a match in which neither wrestler won, but both were worthy of victory.

On November 15 at The Sportatorium in Tampa, Florida, PWF champion Steve Keirn and young "Lightning" Lou Perez wrestled a match so unusual, so positively stunning, so wonderfully brilliant, that, at the end, fans gave them a standing ovation to congratulate them on a great match.

It was a one-hour time-limit draw. That's unusual enough these days. But it was a *purely scientific, absolutely clean,* one-hour time-limit draw.

Those are rare gems, indeed.

"I didn't have to give Steve an eye-gouge, and he didn't have to give me a cheap shot," Perez said. "It was just good, old-fashioned wrestling. If it wasn't for my collegiate background, I would have been like a fish out of water against a veteran like Keirn."

"It was the kind of match I'll treasure forever," Keirn said. "How often does a wrestler get the opportunity to be a part of something special? Well, this was something special, just the two of us going at it and never breaking the rules. See, it *can* be done!"

It can! It can!

For the first 30 minutes, Keirn and Perez put on a classic textbook display of scientific wrestling and counter-wrestling. As the match wore on and both men tired, neither resorted to the easy way out. Both battled their bodies and reached down for more.

"They could have easily reached out for a chair," referee Mickey Jay said. "But never once did this match threaten to break out of hand. It was amazing!"

When both men reached the breaking point, they refused to break. Instead of throwing fists, they exchanged

Keirn traps Perez with a one-legged Boston crab (above). Perez' vertical suplex (left) nearly got him the pinfall, but the time limit expired, ending an extraordinary match.

forearm blows.

Keirn was desperate to save his title.

Perez was desperate to win it.

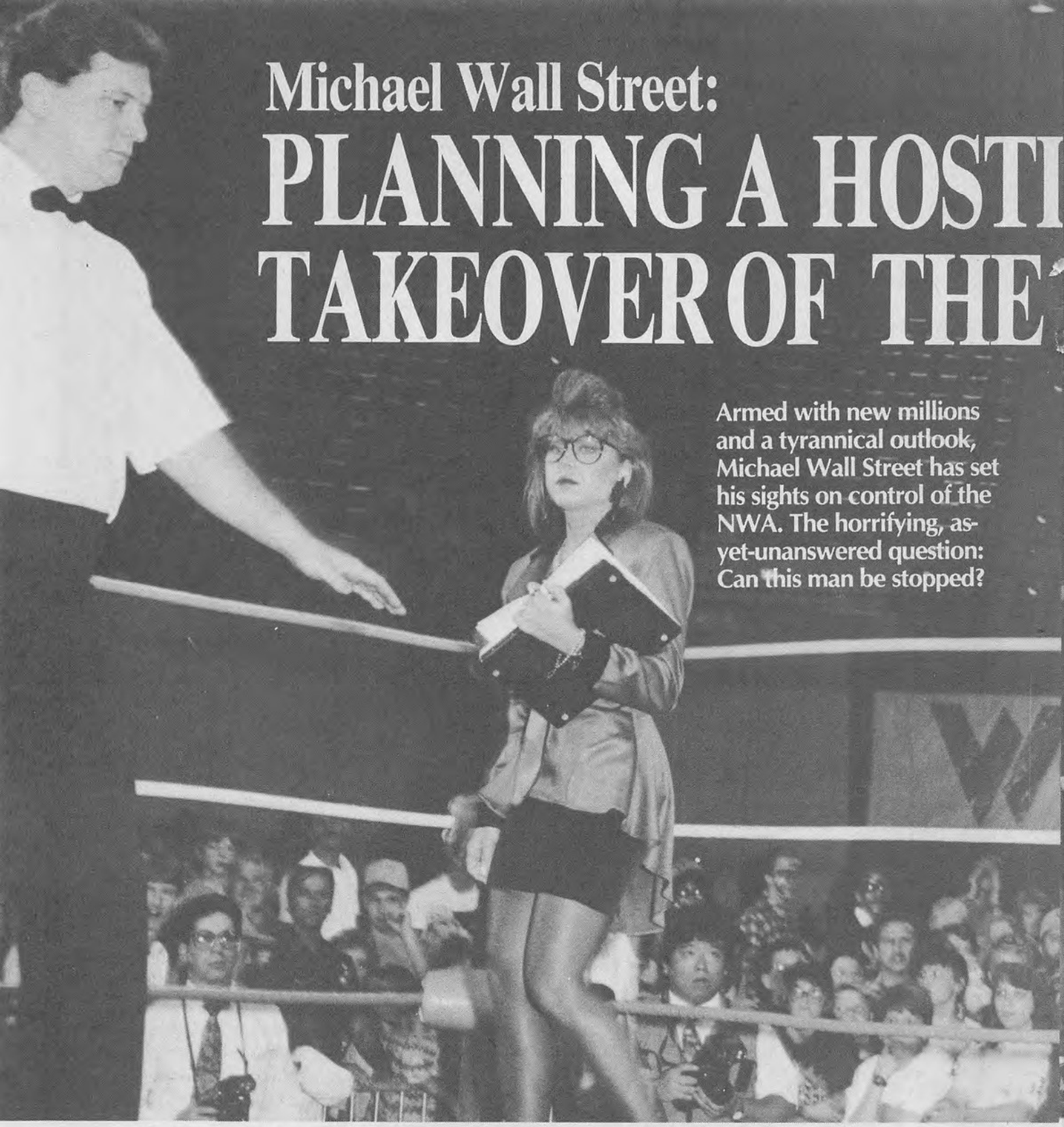
The easy way out would have been the only way out for some wrestlers. Not for Keirn and Perez.

"It was tempting," Perez said. "Title shots are few and far between, and you want to take advantage of them. But you also want to do things the right way and be a champion people can be proud of. Maybe I don't have the title yet, but when I *do* win it, it'll mean even more because of this match."

Keirn nearly won the match when he delivered a piledriver and covered Perez, but at the count of two Jay noticed that Perez' leg was outside the ropes. Jay called for a break and the match continued. The two wrestlers exchanged small packages and Perez

(Continued on page 62)

Michael Wall Street:
PLANNING A HOSTI
TAKEOVER OF THE



Armed with new millions and a tyrannical outlook, Michael Wall Street has set his sights on control of the NWA. The horrifying, as-yet-unanswered question: Can this man be stopped?

By Kostya Kennedy

NOT LONG AGO, in the comfort of his newly renovated luxury suite in the heart of Manhattan, Michael Wall Street was counting his money. He wasn't thumbing through a stack of bills, nor was he dipping into a pot of gold nuggets. Wall Street was tallying up his assets in stocks and bonds.

"You see these," Wall Street asked, thrusting forth a handful of typewritten statements. "These mean money, and money means power. My power is in millions, and I'm going to use it to get to the top of the NWA. I'm not just going to be number one in the federation, I'm going to *be* the federation! Mark my words."

Mike Rotundo, once a standout wrestler at Syracuse University, a two-time former WWF World tag team champion (in 1985, both with Barry Windham), a founding member of Kevin Sullivan's Varsity Club in the NWA, a former NWA World tag team champion (in 1989, with Steve Williams), an outstanding *wres-*

LE NWA

Mike Rotundo is a great scientific wrestler (above), but as Michael Wall Street (left, with Alexandra York) he seems more concerned about money than grappling.

Photos by Bill Otten

tler—is gone. He has been swallowed whole by this man named Wall Street.

Rotundo's on-again, off-again rule-breaking seems almost benign compared to Wall Street's maniacal attitude. A simple inheritance, vast as it is, was all it took to turn Rotundo into a money-flaunting tyrant whose current designs on the NWA may be impossible to disrupt.

"All my life I've had to sweat and toil for everything I got," said Wall Street. "It took me forever to pay off my damn college loan. Now I have enough money to last me 10 lifetimes, and I'm going to make sure I use it to make things happen for myself."

A peek into one of Wall Street's executive meetings offers insight to his angry, unyielding ways. On this day, a group of six men is needed to tackle the latest developments in Wall Street's finances. Each man treats his boss with the utmost respect, but the boss answers with disdain. "One wrong move with my money," Wall Street warns, "and you're out the door." The men, awed by Wall Street's confidence and sudden wealth, nod in obsequity.

"The thing is," said a noted stocks expert, "he really has put his money to good use so far. You expect a guy with a recent inheritance to make a lot of mistakes, but he's made more money in a month than a lot of guys make in a year. He has tremendous capital, and he must have intelligent people working for him."

Yet Wall Street's brain trust takes no part in managing his finances. Instead, Alexandra York, a computer specialist, is Wall Street's "administrative assistant" and partner in crime. She has written analytical programs that examine the strengths and weaknesses of every wrestler in the NWA.

"It took a long time for me to

come up with a solid program, but I've put together something that really gets to the heart of every wrestler," York said. "Using the information I provide, Michael will have a big advantage over anyone he faces."

With Wall Street's considerable wrestling ability—perhaps the only remnant of his life as Mike Rotundo—even a small pre-match advantage would be enough to ensure success. He knows that, and he can hardly wait to put the computer system to work.

"I'll know what my opponents are going to do before they do it," said Wall Street, his eyes gleaming. "It's going to be so easy to beat everyone, and once I get to the top I'll be impossible to knock down. I'm going to be NWA World champion for a long, long time."

Not everyone agrees that Wall Street's computer tactics will be enough to vault him to stardom.

"I play my video wrestling games all the time," said Norman, who once counted Rotundo among his closest friends. "I think that gives me as much of an advantage as anyone. I'm not afraid of the guy just 'cause he's got some kind of fancy computer stuff."

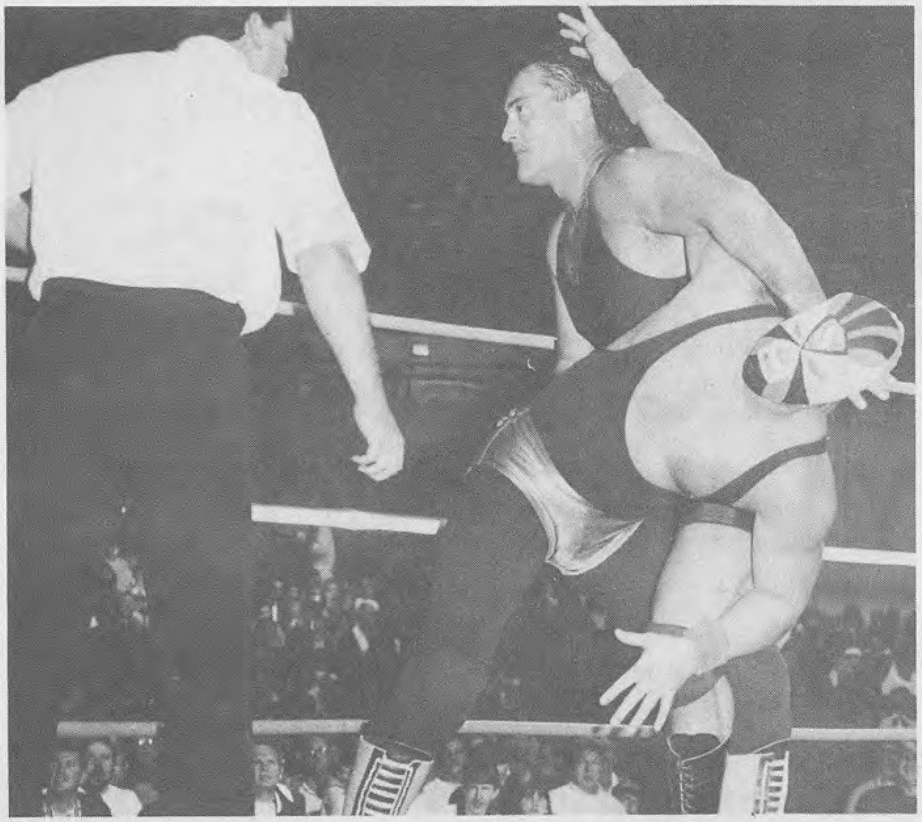
Even if the computer angle doesn't pan out for Wall Street, he may still garner some control of the NWA.

"Money can take you far," said Wall Street with a subtle lick at his upper lip. "I've got plans for the NWA that have nothing to with winning matches. I'm going to let my money talk to some important people, and I'm going to get things done my own way. I've got a few rules changes in mind, and there are a couple of guys out there I don't like too much. Maybe I'll get them banned!"

Can Wall Street's money actually give him that kind of power? It's entirely possible. When it comes to getting things done his way, Wall Street, suddenly addicted to financial fame, will bounce against and over

As a member of The Varsity Club with Rick Steiner, Rotundo used his considerable ability for evil purposes. Now he's even more dangerous.

Rotundo saves Barry Windham from Nikolai Volkoff's bearhug (above); they won two WWF tag team titles in 1985. Today, he supplements his skill (below) with computer knowledge.



all normal boundaries. He's a force to be reckoned with, and he knows it. If anyone can find corruptable figures in the NWA hierarchy, Wall Street is the man, and that means he just might get the omnipotence for which he hungers. Surely there must be a way to stop him.

"The whole thing is a little intimidating," says veteran grappler Terry Taylor. "I don't like the idea that he can spot my weaknesses just by hitting a couple of buttons on a computer. I also don't like the idea that he's rich and powerful. Personally, I'm not afraid of him. But as a group, all of us in the NWA have to keep an eye on him."

"They *should* be worried," laughs Wall Street. "Heck, I'm just getting used to my new suits. I've only just begun to lay my plans. In a couple of months, I'm going to be someone the whole *world* has to watch out for." □

By Kostya Kennedy

IT'S QUITE SIMPLE: Hulk Hogan is the good guy and Earthquake is the bad guy. Anyone who saw, or heard about, Earthquake's blindside attack on the "Hulkster" knows who's right in this feud.

Was there a soul on hand in Philadelphia's Spectrum at SummerSlam who wasn't thrilled to see Hogan exact a measure of revenge? Is there anyone out there who *didn't* expect the immortal "Hulkster" to get his due?

He's a great one, Hogan is, maybe the greatest. Earthquake is just a huge rulebreaking oaf with scarcely a fan on his side.

So, it's "yay" for Hogan and "nay" for Earthquake and that's that, right? The "Hulkster" will pin this guy to the mat a few more times, he'll be satisfied with his revenge, and the feud will melt away.

Not so fast, wrestling fans. Hogan is hungry for more. *Much* more.

"I don't know what's gotten into Hulk," said a WWF fan favorite, "he's absolutely obsessed with Earthquake. He doesn't want to just beat him, he wants to *bury* him. Every time I see him, that's all he talks about. Earthquake this and Earthquake that, and how he's going to knock the guy so silly he'll never climb into the ring again."

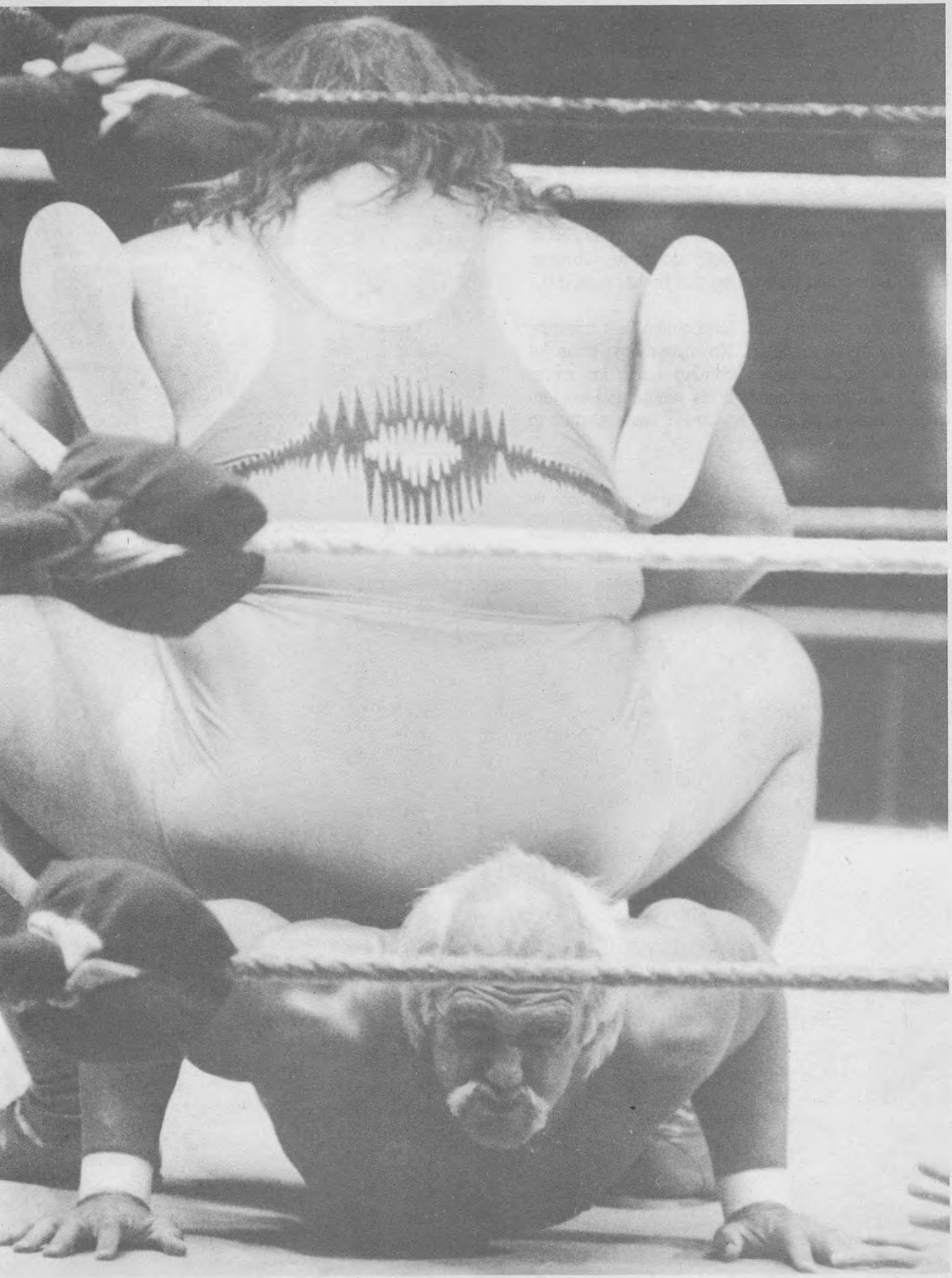
Wait a minute. This is Hulk Hogan we're talking about. Ambassador of wrestling, model citizen, a man of grace and compassion. A man so wrapped in adoration and love he's forgotten how to hate. How can such an icon of sportsmanship want to sadistically demolish a fellow man, even if that fellow man is the odious Earthquake?

"I know, it's a shock to me too," said the same WWF fan favorite. "I've known Hulk for quite a while now, and I've never seen him like this. Maybe he's been so good for so long, some of his dark

The Earthquake Feud Rumbles On

WILL HULK HOGAN BE THE VICTIM OF HIS OWN DEADLY OBSESSION?

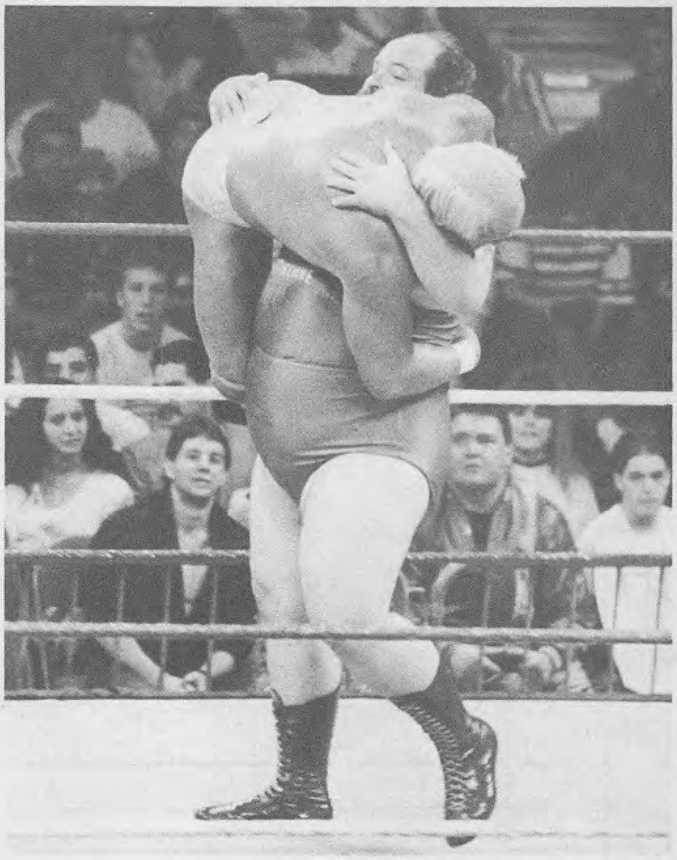
Ever since Earthquake attacked him during a Brother Love segment early in 1990, Hulk Hogan has had his mind set on more than simple revenge. The "Hulkster" is determined to dish out pain and punishment—but his determination may cost him dearly!



side can't help but creep out. I mean, I never thought I'd hear him talk about crippling another wrestler, or spilling blood all over the ring. But that's the kind of things he's saying now. I guess it shows that everyone—human or 'Hulkster'—has a breaking point."

At first glance, this seems like terrible news for Earthquake. Hogan, with his impressive power and years of experience, is always a formidable wrestler. Now that a streak of focused violence is part of his game, Hogan could really do some damage. Earthquake could be worried that he has ruffled the wrong feathers.

But if the truth be told, Earthquake isn't the type to worry about anything. No matter how often he gets beaten, he keeps coming back for more. Earthquake knows that with his weight and tremendous tolerance for pain, he always has a chance to overcome his opponent.



With sheer brute force, Earthquake has forced himself upon the "Hulkster" (right). But Hogan is more than up to the challenge, as he's demonstrated countless times (below). Still, the 'Quake keeps coming.

Hogan never seems to tire of battling Earthquake (above and below). Hulk's friends privately wonder whether he's wasting his time in a destructive feud.

So Hogan's relentlessness could very well turn out to be his own undoing. Earthquake simply isn't going to go away. One of these night, the big guy might get the break that lets him squash the "Hulkster" the same way he squashed him during that Brother Love interview—or maybe worse!

"Earthquake is glad Hogan is so angry at him," said a friend of the 462-pound rulebreaker. "He knows that Hogan is going to keep coming after him, and that means that Earthquake is going to have plenty of chances to flatten Hogan. Earthquake doesn't know pain and he isn't bothered by failure. He just knows that the more chances he has at the same guy, the more likely it is that he'll be able to crush him."

Considering that Hogan lacks a manager with which to formulate a game plan, here's a bit of free advice: Quit messing with Earthquake. You've proven time and again that you're the better wrestler, and you've revenged Earthquake's senseless attack 100 times over. It's time to tone down your hatred and, if you must unleash it somehow, direct it someplace else.

The fact is, "Hulkster," that you really have nothing left to gain through this feud. You have your health and your popularity and your name is as big as ever. If it's a title shot you're angling toward, beating up Earthquake isn't getting you anywhere. So get out, Hulk, before Earthquake catches you napping one day and smothers you with his poundage.

And it's not just your health that's at issue here; your reputation is firmly at stake. Hulkamaniacs across the land have a hero who fights for the good and is guided by a generous heart. The more you flaunt your hatred and lust for revenge, the more dreams and images you shatter. It's incumbent upon you, as an American icon, to *channel* your anger. Hulk Hogan another bloodthirsty bonecrusher? That's not what this country needs.

"Hogan's image could really suffer from all of this," said WWF expert Thomas Pilliard. "People aren't prepared for him to deliberately try to injure someone, even if it is a rulebreaker like Earthquake. Hogan is so high up on a pedestal in many people's eyes that a small slip could bring him way down. He has to be careful not to wear his emotions on his sleeve."

Hogan has already made his emotions—and his intentions—quite clear. And they are decidedly out of synch with the "Hulkster" we all know and admire.

It's not too late for Hogan to bow quietly out of this rumbling feud. Now's the time to do it, before he gets hurt . . . in more ways than one. □

Stan Hansen Lassos Sting:

"I FELT LIKE I HAD JUST SECONDS TO LIVE!"

During a recent bout, Stan Hansen went wild and nearly choked the life out of Sting. But instead of plotting revenge, the NWA World champion is just grateful he's still around to talk about it!

By Kostya Kennedy

STING KNEW ABOUT Stan Hansen, but that comes as no surprise. Who doesn't?

Hansen's brawling techniques have become legendary, and the NWA World champion is as aware of them as anyone. But until very recently, Sting had never met Hansen in the ring. He hadn't felt Hansen's wrath first-hand.

Now he has. And after squeaking out a victory (if one can call it that!) over Hansen by disqualification that night, Sting, by his own admission, is thankful to be alive.

"There was a moment there when I thought I was finished," Sting said. "In all my years as a wrestler, on all different levels, I never felt as completely and totally brutalized as I did that night. I felt like I had just seconds to live.

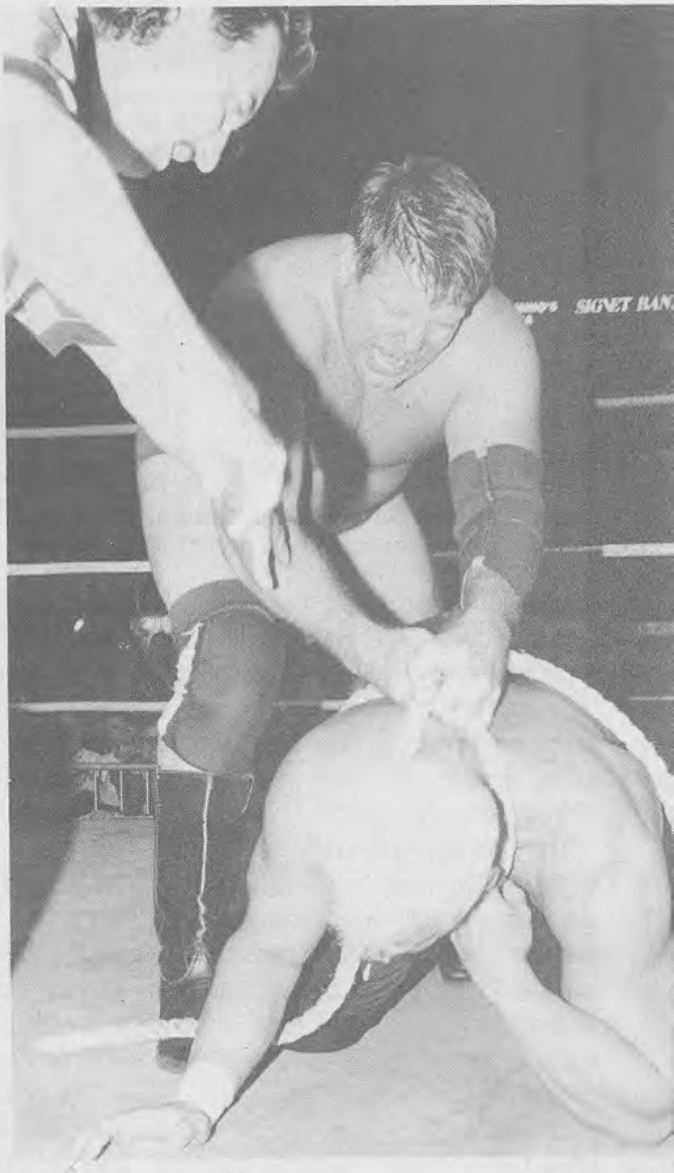
"I'd heard about what Hansen did in the ring, and I'd seen him pull some pretty vicious stunts in the past. But I never thought he would take his rulebreaking so far. I figured everybody knows when to stop, but Hansen didn't let up until it was almost too late."

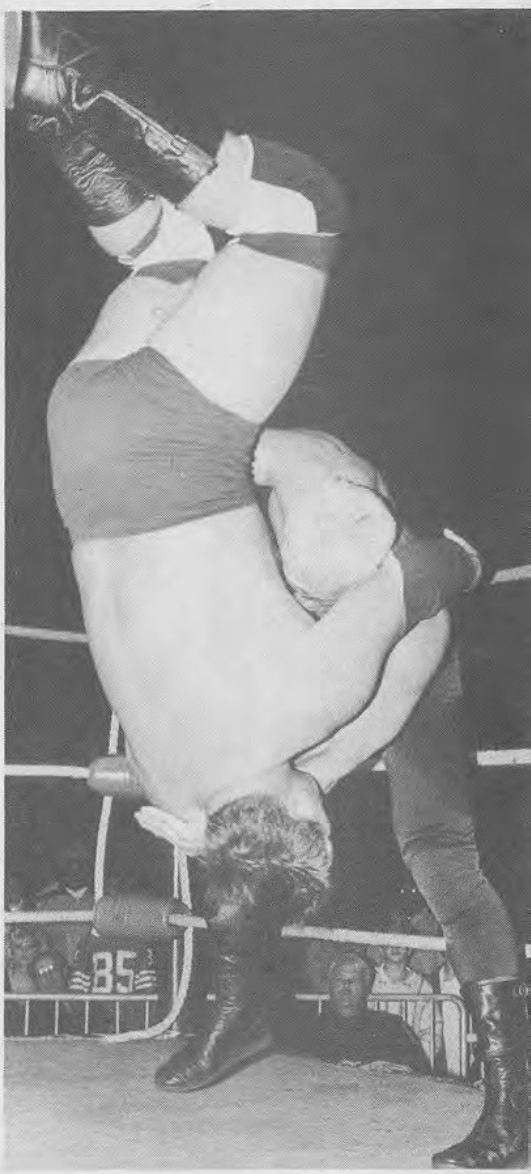
What Hansen did was wrap a thick bullrope around Sting's neck, pulling it tighter and tighter until the veins on Sting's throat seemed ready to burst. Sting struggled to pull the rope away, but Hansen was resolute. He hung on as Sting began losing strength, wilting to the floor, clutching in vain at his tortured neck.

Finally—almost miraculously!—Hansen let go, and he was justly disqualified for the choking. As an experienced law-shatterer, Hansen must have known his violence would spell his defeat. So why did the NWA U.S. titleholder let loose the rope's deadly grip? Could it be that big, bad Stan Hansen, meanest brawler on the block, bowed to compassion?

"No way!" Hansen shouted. "Why should I have compassion for anyone, especially someone I'm in the ring with? Nobody forced Sting to wrestle me, he took it upon himself. He must have known what he was getting himself into. My reputation

In this bout, Stan "The Lariat" Hansen was unmerciful in choking NWA World champion Sting with his rope. Sting says it was the most harrowing experience of his life.





Hansen sees Sting (above) as just another pretty boy. But the "Stinger" doesn't fear Hansen (right) . . . as long as he doesn't have the rope.

speaks loud and clear."

Why, then, did Hansen let the rope slacken with Sting still kicking?

"What am I supposed to do? I made my point. You can't go around *killing* people, you know. Not that it didn't cross my mind."

The thought crossed Sting's mind.

"I was thinking to myself, 'Is this guy going to kill me?' " Sting said. "I was helpless. I couldn't breathe at all, and I didn't have enough strength left to get the rope off my neck. It kept digging in deeper and deeper.

"Everything got very blurry for a while, and I think I actually blacked out at one point for a few seconds. I don't remember everything that happened, but I remember reaching at my neck for what seemed like the millionth time, and finally the rope was gone. Believe me, it was pretty frightening."

Though Sting was able to get to his feet and stagger about the ring, he gasped and floundered like a fish on a beach. For all of Sting's power and determination, there was no way he could wrestle effectively after the ordeal. Indeed, he wasn't back at 100 percent for hours.

"Even back at the locker room I was woozy," Sting recalled. "I felt kind of like when you wake up from anesthesia. My head was cloudy and I couldn't put any consecutive thoughts together. I concentrated on taking deep, full breaths and letting them out slowly. I didn't even dare go into the shower because I was afraid I might pass out. It wasn't until much later that I felt my strength return."

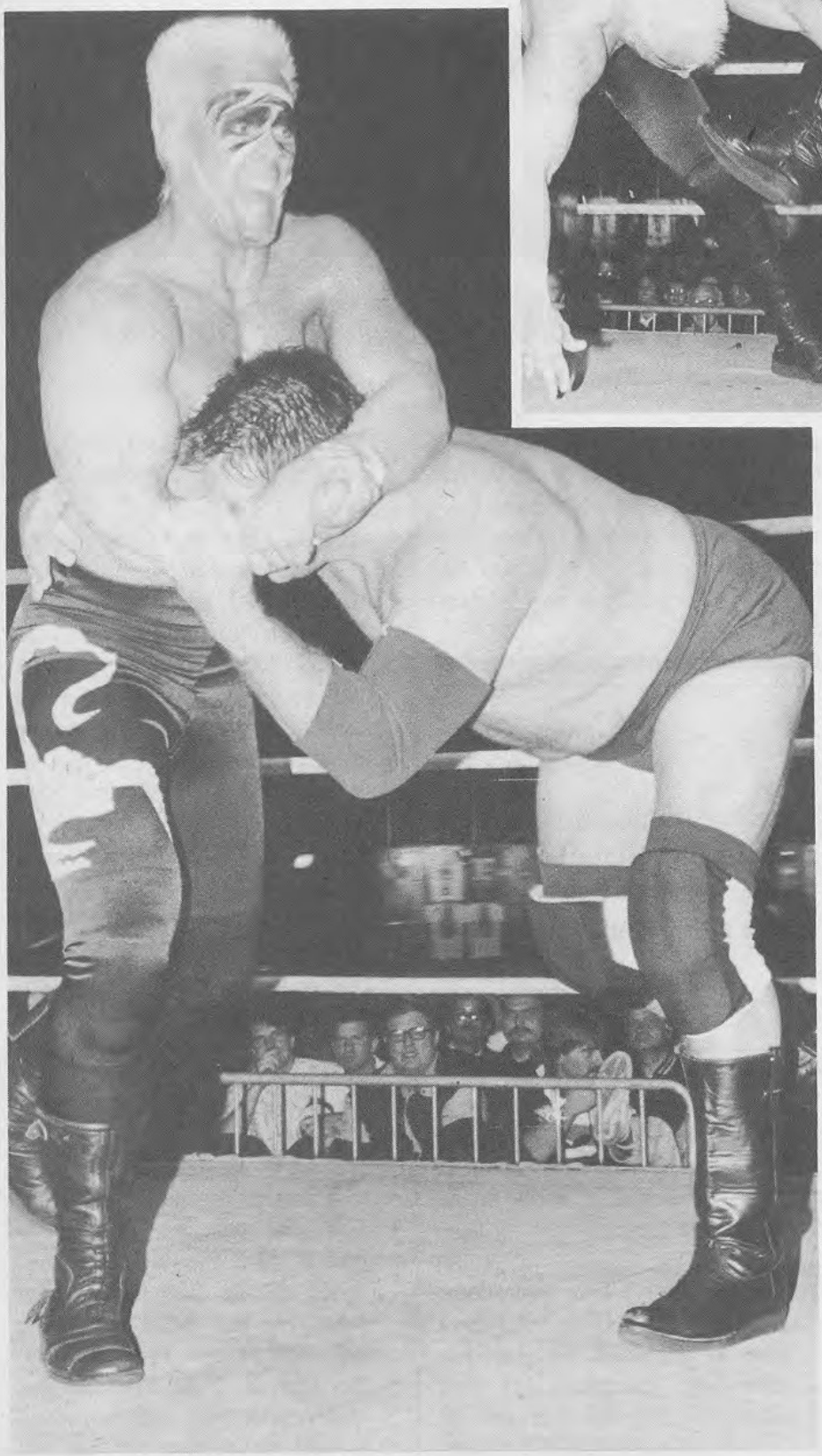
One would think that such an experience might fill Sting with hatred. Hansen might have ended Sting's wrestling career—or his life—with his hangman's tactics. Now, perhaps, the World champion would come after Hansen with a vengeance.

"Let him come," Hansen snarled. "I'll be ready for him. I turned him into a quivering piece of fish the last time, and I'd do it again. I don't care if he's angry. I'm *always* angry."

But Sting isn't angry. For all the pain and terror he suffered, Sting

couldn't care less about revenge. His reflections on that brutal night have been colored by perspective.

"What will it prove if I get all fired up at Hansen and we square off again?" Sting wondered. "I'll wrestle him if I have to, and I'm sure our paths will cross again someday—perhaps soon. But I don't have it in for Hansen. What happened that night is much too big for petty revenge.



Hansen answers Sting's headlock (left) with a kick to the gut (above). Sting shudders to think what would have happened if Hansen had gone just a little further.

"What if he had pulled just a little bit tighter? What if he hadn't let go in time? Heck, I could be *dead.* Do you realize that? This isn't rhetoric. I could actually have lost my life. After all I've worked for and accomplished, he could have ended it all. It makes you think about your place in the world. It makes you grateful for the little things."

Nearly a month after the Hansen bout, Sting was taking an evening walk along a Florida beach. He stopped to feel the sand, to handle a periwinkle shell. His hands roaming near the water's edge, Sting found a round, flat rock. Standing, the great wrestler whipped the stone sidearm into the Atlantic and watched as it skipped quickly along the surface.

"Man, that's neat," he said to no one in particular.

Then Sting leaned back and swallowed the ocean air. He breathed long and deep and let the breath go slowly. □

HOTSEAT

BARRY WINDHAM

"MY FEW MINUTES AS STING WAS NAUSEATING!"

FOR MONTHS, FANS kept asking the question, but they weren't getting an answer: Where was Barry Windham? Why had this veteran member of The Four Horsemen vanished from the NWA without a trace?

The stock answer supplied by the other Horsemen—Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, and Sid Vicious—was that Windham had suffered a pair of injuries and was unable to wrestle. In fact, the second-generation star suffered a broken bone in his left foot during a match against Lex Luger on August 28 in Macon, Georgia. The next night in Rome, Georgia, Windham exacerbated the injury by ignoring it and wrestling Luger again; he suffered a hyperextended right knee while trying to favor his foot.

A serious injury, to be sure, but not nearly enough to keep Windham out of action for two months. With the mysterious Black Scorpion appearing on the NWA scene, many fans assumed it was Windham under the black cowl. Others believed the usually transient Windham had simply departed the federation once again.

However, only Windham knew what his sinister intentions were. He shocked the wrestling world by impersonating Sting during Vicious' World title match at Halloween Havoc '90 on October 27 in Chicago. The plot to tie up the real Sting in the dressing room failed, however, when Sting broke free and went on to pin Vicious. All Windham had to show for his efforts was a short-cropped haircut.

> **"I never dreamed I'd ever have to put on makeup and a pair of pink tights. I felt like an overgrown sissy!"**

Now Windham is back in earnest, and he's angry. Associate Editor Bob Smith traveled to Atlanta to speak to the resurgent competitor about his recent past.

Q: Barry, I guess I have to welcome you back to the NWA, but I don't have to appreciate the way you made your "comeback." I must admit you had me—and fans all over the country—fooled completely. You looked almost exactly like Sting during the Halloween Havoc hoax!

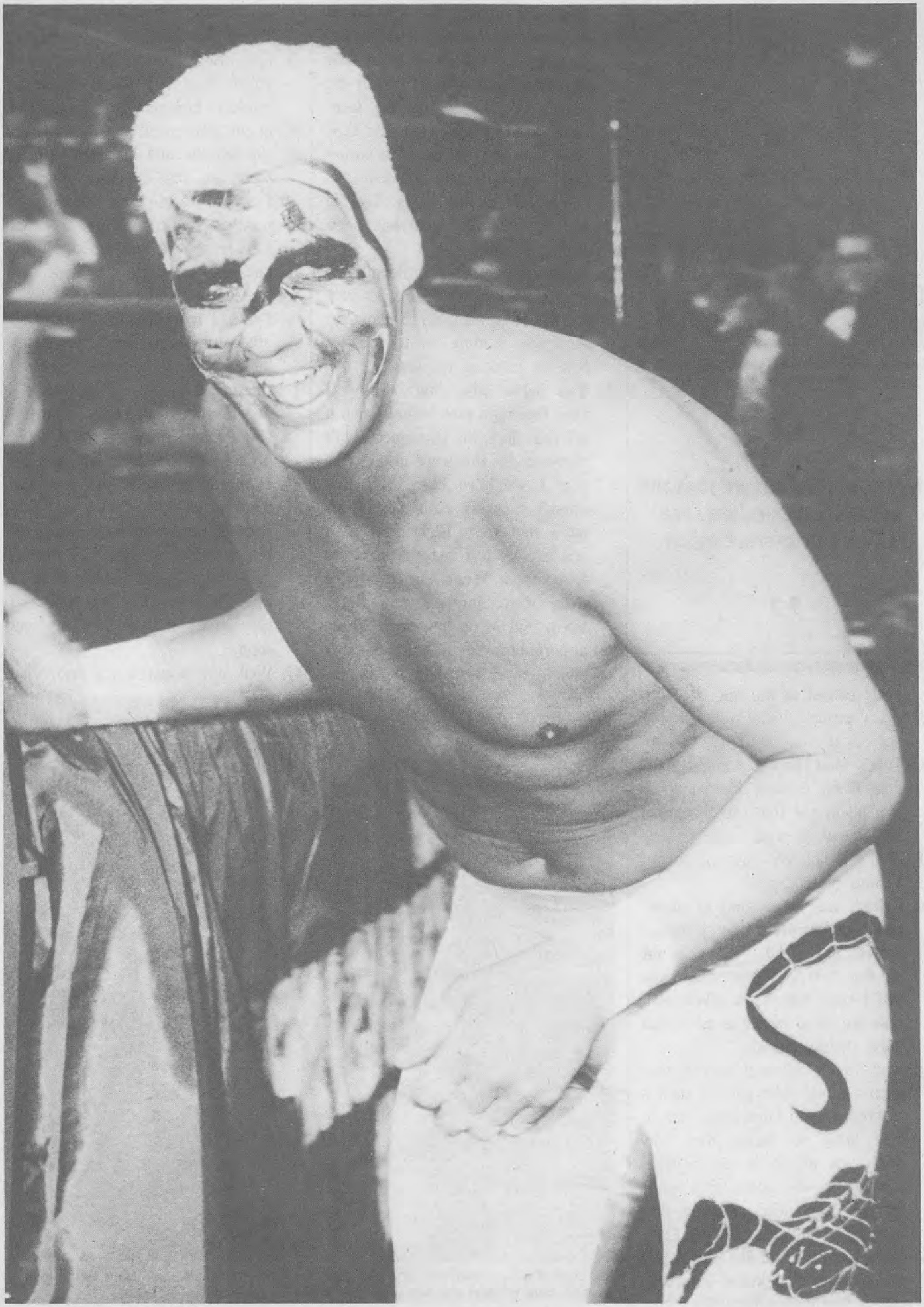
A: ***Awwww*, shut up! That's the worst insult you could possibly hit me with, so don't ever say that again. My few minutes as Sting was nauseating. I never dreamed I'd ever have to put on makeup and a pair of pink tights. God, I felt like an overgrown sissy!**

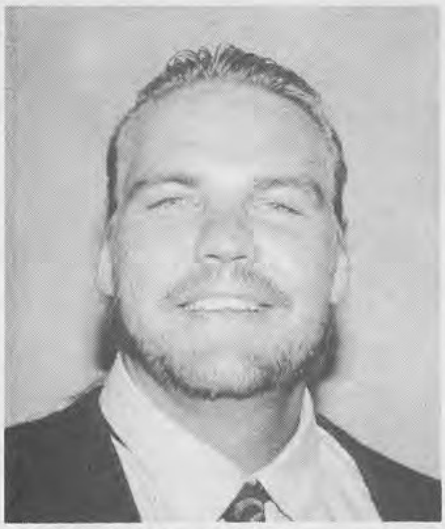
Q: What's this? Are you calling Sting a *sissy* ?

A: Hey, if the Max Factor sticks, wear it. Our plot to take Sting's title was the most brilliant scheme in the history of this sport. For weeks, we staked that guy out thoroughly. We even found out what tailor the guy uses so we could buy a copy of the same tights Sting was wearing on that night. It was absolutely brilliant!

Q: I agree, it *was* brilliant—just brilliant enough to fail.

A: True, but that was through no fault of mine. Vicious and Ole Anderson tied up Sting in the locker room, but they didn't tie him up quite tight enough. Just a few minutes later, he broke free, and that idiot referee Nick Patrick decided to void the victory that Sid had





> **My goal is to ensure that the Horsemen dominate the NWA title picture again.**

justly earned in the ring.

Q: *Justly* earned? Vicious pinned *you*, not Sting!

A: That's what you say. I admit that I dressed up to look like Sting on that night, but that *was* Sting that Sid pinned. It wasn't me.

Q: That's a lie! We have photos of Vicious pinning you.

A: I don't care what kind of phony photographic proof you supposed experts have. Sid Vicious is the rightful NWA World champion, and I can't believe the NWA officials can be so biased as to let that lousy decision stand.

Q: And I can't believe a man of your talents would take part in such a scandal. If you Horsemen want to beat Sting so badly, then why don't you all do it the old-fashioned way—by establishing yourselves as contenders and then pinning his shoulders to the mat?

A: That doesn't sound like such a bad idea, scribe. You know, I've been out of commission for quite a long time with injuries. But I'm proud to announce that I'm back at 100 percent, and I'm dying for a shot at a title again. I don't care if it's Sting's World title, the tag team belts, or even Stan Hansen's U.S. championship. My job is to ensure that the Horsemen dominate the NWA title picture again. By the end of 1991 that goal will be a reality, I assure you.

Q: What makes you so confident? After all, 1990 wasn't such a hot year for the Horsemen, other than Arn Anderson holding on to the TV belt for most of the year.

A: You better wipe that smirk off your face right now before I slap it off you. Sure, the Horsemen didn't dominate the title scene in quite the way I would've liked. But that doesn't mean we can't pick up after a bad start. Right now, Arn and Ric are just inches away from lifting those World tag team belts from Ron Simmons and Butch Reed. Sid is getting some more opportunites at Sting, and any minute now there will be an announcement that he's the new World champion.

Q: Fine. But where does that leave *you*? Why has Barry Windham suddenly become the odd man out in the Horsemen?

A: I'm not the odd man out in *anything*, and that's a big reason why I agreed to do this interview. I want the whole world to know that I'm ready to rumble, open for business, and back on track. It's just that in the past couple of years I've had more injuries than at any other time in my career. In 1989, I busted my right wrist when I smashed it against the ringpost in a match against Lex Luger. That just about ruined that year for me, and my leg problems have put a damper on things lately. But now I'm ready to stake my claim as a full-fledged, moneymaking, title-grabbing member of The Four Horsemen. Like I said before, I don't care which belt I get, as long as I get some gold around my gut soon.

Q: Well, now everyone will know that

The man who impersonated Sting has given the NWA World champion some tough matches, and says winning the belt from him would be no problem.

you're ready for action. But one thing that seems strange is that you disappeared from the scene right when The Black Scorpion started making his first NWA appearances...

A: Hold it right there! What are you getting at?

Q: All right, I'll ask the question point blank: Are you The Black Scorpion?

A: No, but you're going to get a black eye. I have nothing to do with that masked meathead, and neither do any of the other Horsemen. As far as I'm concerned, that guy is getting World title shots that should be going to Ric, Arn, Sid, or myself. He's just getting in our way. And besides, why would anyone dress up in such an outlandish outfit, anyway?

Q: That's funny. You looked pretty outlandish with your spike haircut and face paint. If you'd go to those lengths in order to rip Sting off, why wouldn't you put on a black mask and become the Scorpion?

A: Because wrestling under a mask just isn't my game, that's why. In my entire career, I've never had to hide my face under a hood. Like my daddy, Blackjack Mulligan, always told me, you must be proud of yourself at all times. I'm proud to be Barry Windham, and I'm proud to be a member of the Horsemen. I'll be even prouder when we all dominate the NWA, and I don't need a black mask to do it.

Q: How about a yellow mask?

A: Huh?

Q: Remember a wrestler in Florida by the name of Dirty Yellow Dog?

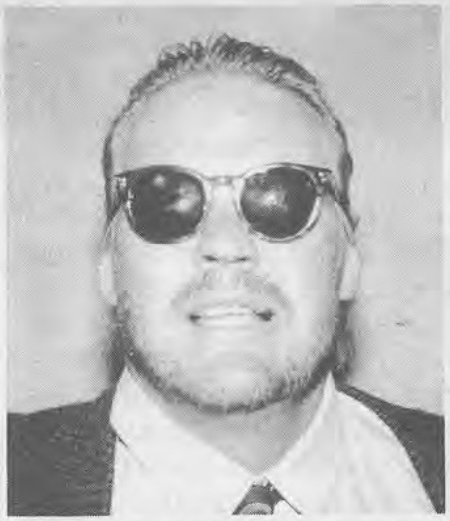
A: Never heard of him.

Q: Never mind. You mentioned dominating the NWA, and that's exactly what Sting is doing right now. How do you feel you'd fare against the champion?

A: Well, first of all, I wouldn't give a damn about how the fans reacted to me. Sting can soak up all the cheers he wants, but to me that garbage is only a distraction, anyway. While he's busy kowtowing to all the kiddies in the crowd, I'd sneak up behind him and ram his peroxide head into the ringpost. Then I'd throw him inside the ring and smash him with my flying forearm. Three seconds later, a new champion would be crowned.

Q: You make winning the World title sound so easy.

A: Why not? Winning belts has never been hard for me before. Everywhere I've traveled, I've been a champion. I'm a former World tag team champion, a former U.S. and U.S. tag team champion, and I've even won the WWF World tag team title twice. The only thing left for me to do is grab that World belt.



"I want the whole world to know that I'm ready to rumble, open for business, and back on track."

Q: You won the WWF tag team title with Mike Rotundo, who recently underwent quite a change. He now wants to be known as Michael Wall Street, since he inherited millions of dollars, and he's a rule-breaker again.

A: That's right, and I must admit that I'm really proud of the guy. For too long he let the fans dictate what he did in the ring. What did he have to show for it? Nothing, and that's all the fans ever gave me. I shudder to think of where I'd be if I wasn't associated with the Horsemen.

Q: I know where you'd be. You'd probably still be respected instead of reviled.

A: That tears it. You know, you've been trying to tear me down this entire interview. Get the hell out of here before I throw you out. □

Windham says he's solidly behind fellow Horseman Arn Anderson and the rest of his mates, despite the fact that he's been out of NWA action for some time.

Jake Roberts vs. Rick Martel:

BLIND OUTRAGE!

By Dave Rosenbaum

JAKE ROBERTS HAS lost his sight. He's been stripped of his pride and taunted in front of millions. He has been treated like a blind man selling pencils in the street, and has been made to defend himself in the most uncivilized manner imaginable.

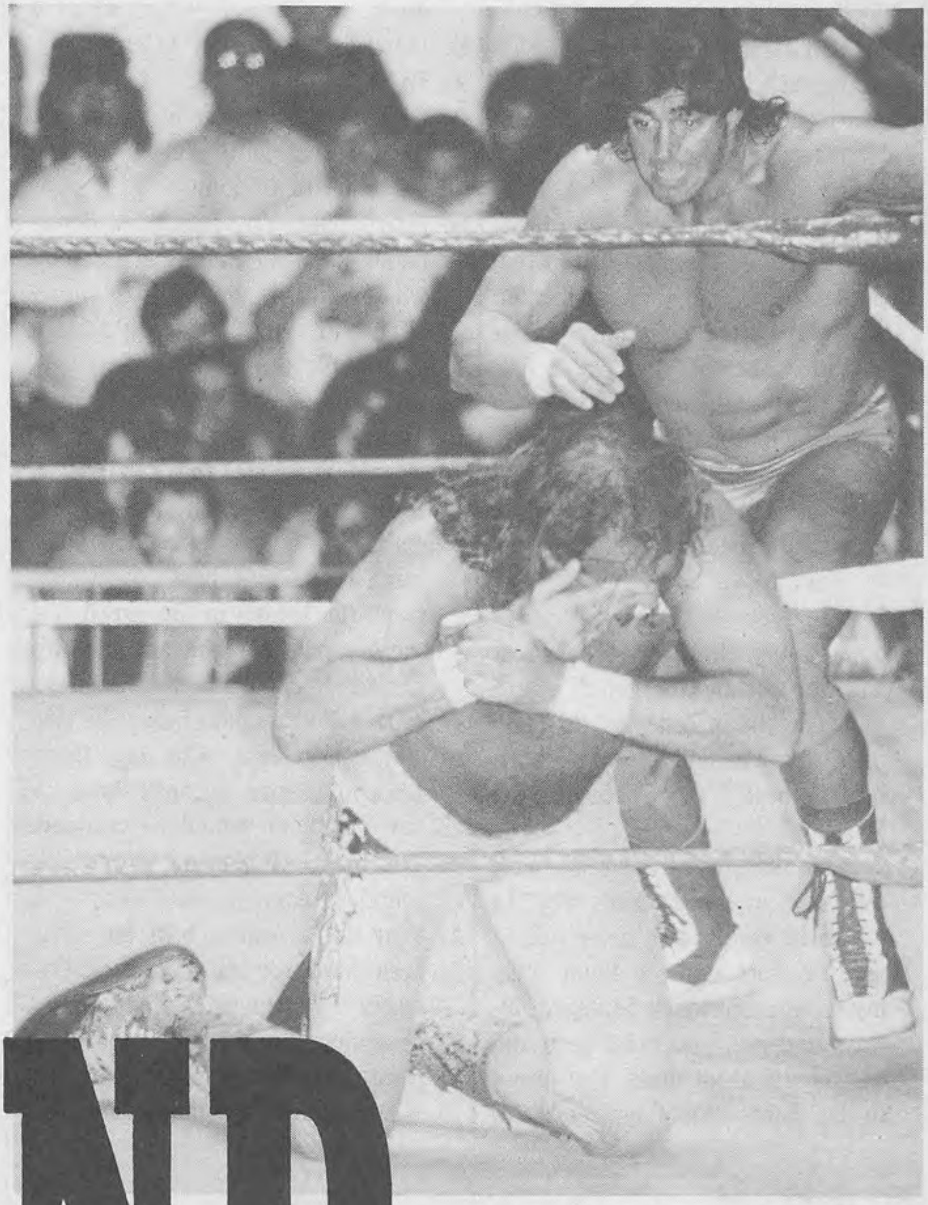
He tries to fight back, but it's hard to fight when one of God's greatest gifts—the gift of sight—has been taken away.

And it's even harder to fight fairly because the man who robbed him of this gift, Rick Martel, doesn't care.

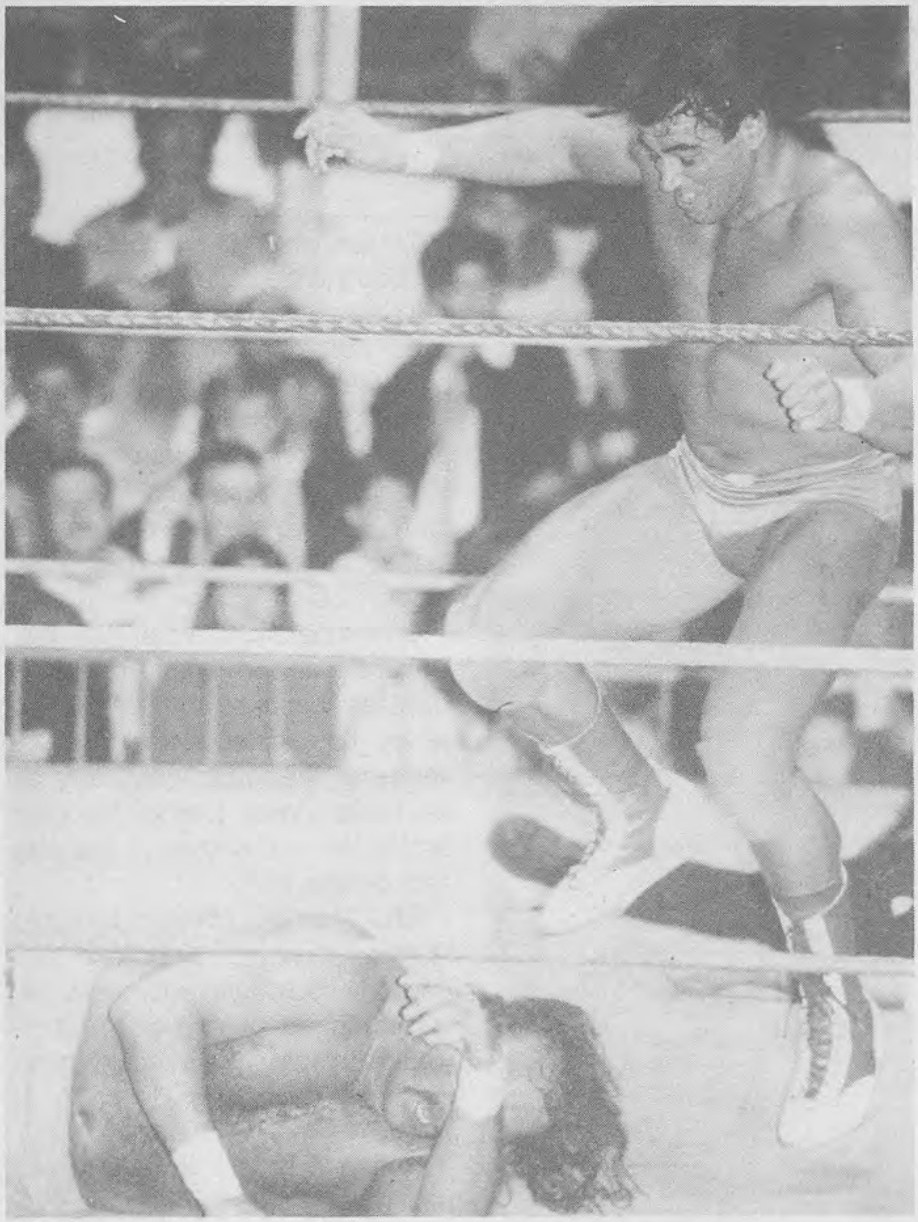
It's sad. But one of these days, Roberts' sight will be fully restored. When that happens, Martel may regret the day he crossed paths with "The Snake."

Or he just might blind him again.

"Martel simply doesn't care," said one WWF wrestler. "We've

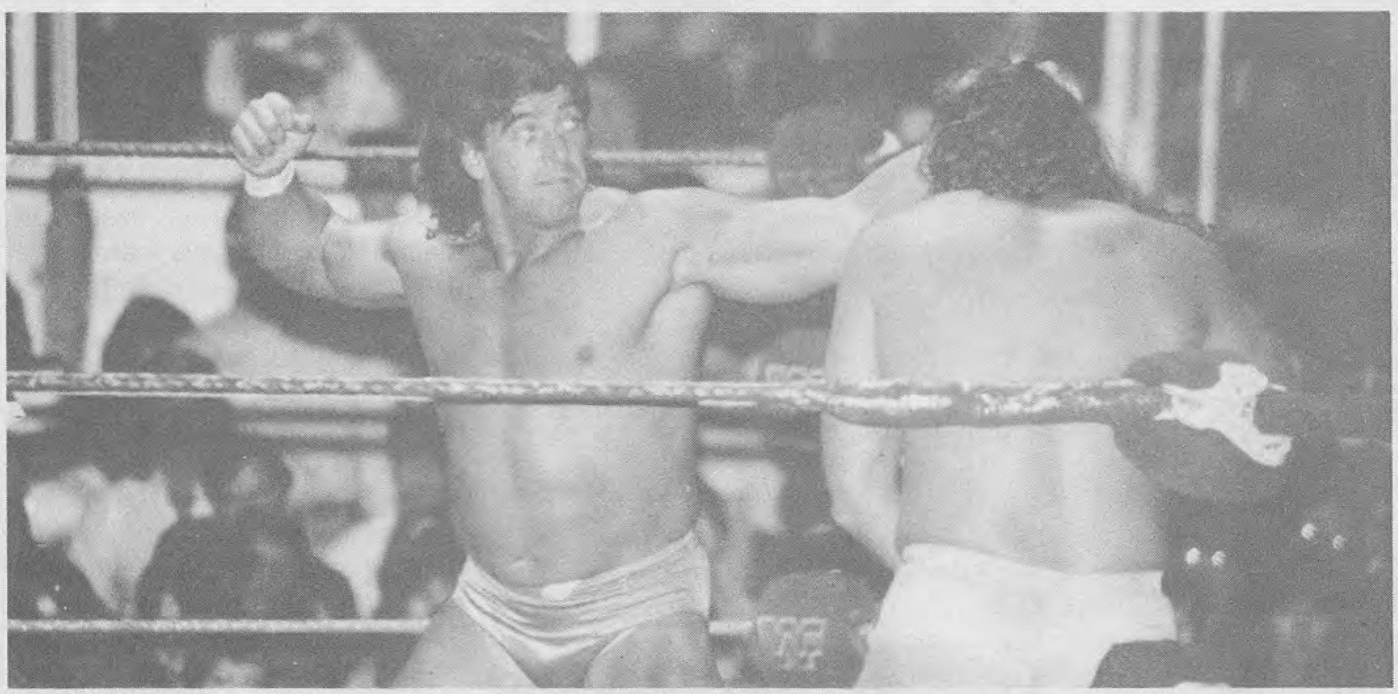


Rick Martel takes full advantage of Jake Roberts' loss of sight (above and opposite page). When Roberts comes back at full strength, Martel will be in trouble.



He can't see where he's going, but he knows what he wants. Jake Roberts was temporarily blinded by Rick Martel, then blinded again. But even "The Model's" odoriferous "Arrogance" won't stop "The Snake" from gaining revenge!

seen how he treats his former partner, Tito Santana, and now we've seen that he doesn't care how badly he injures an opponent. His arrogance and lack of concern for others has taken over totally. It's one thing to want to win, but it's another thing entirely to go so far, to have so much hatred."



Photos by David Fitzgerald

Martel's Boston crabs (left), stiff right hands (middle left), and turnbuckle smashes (bottom left) nearly have Roberts a beaten man. But "The Snake" has something within him that won't let him quit.

To spray a foreign substance in an opponent's face.

To take his sight away.

To not care, which is exactly how Martel felt after he blinded Roberts by spraying his "Arrogance" cologne in Roberts' face. Martel's obviously insincere regrets and apologies only made the situation worse. They only made Roberts angrier.

Unfortunately, there's little that Roberts can do about it. He is helpless because he can't see where he's going. He wants revenge in the worst way, but, as he hunts down Martel, innocent bystanders are getting in the way and getting hurt.

And Martel stands by and laughs. It's hard to believe that anybody could take such pleasure in blinding another person, then would actually be proud of beating them in matches.

But it's really happening.

During a recent Roberts-Martel match, long after the blinding incident, Martel smeared a foreign substance in Roberts' face. Roberts, outraged, went after Martel. He swung his fists, connected several times, stalked the ring, and delivered several DDTs.

Martel would have been hurt badly. He would have learned his lesson . . . if he had been the victim of Roberts' attack.

Roberts, however, didn't know who he was attacking. As it turned out, he was attacking everybody except Martel.

He got the referee. He mauled several ringside officials. He was unstoppable because he thought he was gaining revenge. Instead, he was only making things worse.

Roberts was disqualified for his actions, but will not receive further

It takes several referees to break up Martel and Roberts. This feud has become so intense that it could cost both men their careers.

punishment from WWF President Jack Tunney. The humiliation Roberts suffered (according to sources, he was irate and apologetic upon returning to the dressing room) was enough.

Of course, Roberts will have his day. According to doctors, Roberts' loss of sight is not a permanent condition. Before Martel blinded him again, Roberts had regained almost complete sight in in right eye.

Martel, obviously realizing he was in for trouble, took care of that.

But what kind of coward can't wrestle his opponents face-to-face? What kind of coward has to rely on such trickery? How can Martel be so proud of what he's done? How could he have sunk so low?

Just think about it: Even half-blind, Roberts has the guts to step into the ring against Martel. The old Martel would respect that kind of intestinal fortitude; "The Model" just cheats his way to victory over an incapacitated foe.

Obviously, Martel's use of "Arrogance" is wrong and illegal. Martel should be seriously punished by Tunney. According to WWF sources, however, Roberts asked Tunney permission to do the job on his own.

An eye for an eye. Roberts wants justice on his own terms.

But is he risking too much by going after Martel? "The Model" has made it clear he'll do anything to stop Roberts. "The Snake" has already lost much, but there's much more left to lose. Maniacs like Martel must be stopped, but what is the price that must be paid?

Clearly, these men hate each other and will not stop. Their feud is destined to rage for months, if not years. Roberts will keep going, even if he can't see.

Roberts cannot expect a fair fight with Martel. He has to expect the worst, prepare for the worst, and come into his matches with that in mind. It's sad to say, but Roberts has suffered several severe losses in this feud already. He may have to start fighting "Arrogance" with "Arrogance," and start bringing in some foreign objects or substances of his own.

It's as clear as the nose on his face. If only he could see it. □

The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One

ONE O

"Look at the facts, Jeffy. The first time I got the chance, I beat you like a dog and became the new [Southern] champion."
—Eddie Gilbert

AS VASTLY DIFFERENT as they are in other ways, Eddie Gilbert and Jeff Jarrett share many similarities. Both are second-generation stars. Both are seasoned veterans, yet still young enough to possess a wealth of enthusiasm and drive. And both are among the top stars of the USWA.

That's where the similarities end. Jarrett, the son of promoter and former wrestler Jerry Jarrett, was raised with two goals in mind: to be a winner, but to abide by the rules at all times. Jarrett had to fight the odds, not only because he was smaller than most wrestlers at only 200 pounds, but because his second-generation status made him a marked man. But he persevered and grew into a man before the eyes of his adoring Tennessee fans.

Gilbert also hails from Tennessee, but he is every bit as reviled as Jarrett is loved. Frustrated by his lack of success as a fan favorite in the NWA, "Hot Stuff" returned to the USWA this past spring and immediately resumed rulebreaking. Use chains? Throw fire? These vile tactics are standard operating procedure for the sadistic Gilbert.

Put these two men in the same ring and fireworks are sure to happen—especially if Gilbert has any say in the matter. On October 29 in Memphis, Gilbert captured the USWA Southern title from Jarrett, but in doing so unleased a huge fireball at Jarrett's chest.

Naturally, Jarrett wants to gain revenge for that attack—and regain his championship in the process—but Gilbert claims Jarrett will never get another crack at the Southern belt. It was certain that verbal fireballs would be fired as these enemies faced off . . . "One on One."

EDDIE GILBERT: Ladies and gentlemen, let me introduce you to Jeff Jarrett, that towheaded twerp who somehow managed to beat Dick Slater for the Southern title. *Oops,* I forgot—you're not the Southern champion anymore! Seems to me you got beat up pretty bad in losing that belt. Gee, I wonder who it was that beat you? Could it have been "Hot Stuff"?

JEFF JARRETT: Yes, Eddie, you defeated me to win the belt, if you can truly consider that a victory. If it wasn't for your slimy manager, Sam Lowe . . .

EG: Sam "Bass" Lowe!

JJ: Whatever! Anyway, if that little creep hadn't distracted referee Jerry Calhoun, you never would have gotten away with throwing that fireball at me. Luckily, the burns to my chest were diagnosed as being only first-degree ones. You didn't put me out of action the way you hoped you would. Tough luck, Eddie. I'm still here, and now I want you more than ever.

EG: Big deal. Look at the facts,

N ONE

"You didn't put me out of action the way you hoped you would. I'm still here, and I want you more than ever."
—Jeff Jarrett

Jeffy. You were the Southern champion, and I was ranked the number-one contender. The first time I got the chance, I beat you like a dog and became the new champion. That drops you completely out of contention, pal, so you're history. Why don't you go off and team with that midget Bill Dundee or something equally as dumb?

JJ: Bold words, Eddie, but that's all they are, words. You see, matchmaker Eddie Marlin and the rest of the championship committee got a good look at the videotape of that match, and they all know now that you cheated to beat me. And that's why I remain the number-one contender to your title. So you see, Ed, you've got to wrestle me whether you like it or not. You may think you're finished with me, but I'm gonna be on you like white on rice.

EG: That's bunk and you know it. As champion, I have full say as to who my contenders are. Marlin thinks he runs the show around here, but soon the USWA will be totally controlled by yours truly. As I keep trying to tell you, Jeffy, there's a new order around Memphis. For too long, people like Jerry Lawler, Dundee, and your daddy have been acting like they're God's gifts to this sport. Those days are over. People are tired of seeing those guys—and you—in the main events when there are real wrestlers like myself, Tony Anthony, and my brother, Doug, who are better than you guys ever dreamed of being. And that's why I'm the new "King" around here.

JJ: Some "King"! So you went to some costume shop and bought yourself a crown. *Anybody* can do that, Eddie. Jerry Lawler is the *true* king of Memphis because he was given that designation by the fans. For two decades, Jerry has wrestled all over the country and all over the world, but he always comes back to Memphis. He loves the people here, and the people love him. That's what makes him "The King." All your claims are just empty words.

EG: Get off it, Jarrett. People around here are as sick and tired of Lawler as I am. They've had to put up with his big mouth for two decades, and finally they're starting to realize that he's nothing but a fat bag of wind. I know you feel indebted to the guy because he's your mentor, but his day is over. Finished. Kaput. Now that I've disposed of you, my next goal is to retire that fossil so that the new order can truly begin to flourish.

JJ: If Lawler is such a fossil, how come you helped Terry Funk—a guy who's even older than Jerry is—win the USWA title? Why didn't you go after the championship yourself?

EG: Just part of my grand scheme, Jeffy boy. I don't *have* to be USWA champion to be the leader around here. I'm happy for Terry, because he deserves to be recognized for all his years of service to this sport. Plus, ol' Terry is one of my best friends in the world. He'll protect that belt from scum like you, Lawler, and Dundee. What could be better than that?

JJ: I don't buy it for a minute. You know, Eddie, you're really a warped, frustrated guy who . . .

EG: Oh, shut up, punk. I can't *wait* for the next time we wrestle. Those burns I gave you last time will be nothing compared to what I'm going to do next! □

SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 5)

get-well card program and everything else you could imagine. They also had updates on him every week on the WWF TV programs.

Doesn't anybody care about Brutus Beefcake? He could have been killed! The WWF should do only one thing right now: Start a get-well project for "The Barber"!

DREW BALDWIN
Valrico, FL

PAUL E.'S PABLUM

I just loved the article about Paul E. Dangerously in the January 1991 issue ("Paul E. Dangerously: Why The 'Young Genius' Has Flunked As A Manager"). That guy has to have the biggest mouth in the history of this sport. What did he do as a manager? Nothing!

Every good protege he ever had slipped right through his fingers. Look at Mark Callous, for instance. Callous has become The Undertaker, and he's on the verge of becoming a real force in the WWF. What did Callous do in the NWA? Bupkis!

Paul E. recently announced his "retirement" from managing, and I hope it sticks. Now if we can get him away from the announcers' table I'll *really* be happy.

EMMA WALLACE
Indianapolis

The WWF should have begun a get-well campaign for Brutus Beefcake (above), says reader Drew Baldwin. Paul E. Dangerously let Mark Callous slip away (below), in reader Emma Wallace's view.

WARLORD WONDERS

I would like to know why The Warlord does not get any title shots. He wrestles a vast amount of preliminary bouts, and when he doesn't he still ends up competing against mediocre guys such as Koko B. Ware or Ronnie Garvin.

This wrestler has the potential to be a champion and give guys such as Hulk Hogan and The Ultimate Warrior the fight of their lives. When will the WWF realize this?

Slick's charge, The Warlord (above), deserves WWF title shots, in reader Wayne Reid's opinion.

WAYNE REID
Barbados, West Indies

SPOUSAL SORROW

I really feel for Chris Adams. When his wife, Toni, and his ex-wife, Jeannie, began to feud, you could tell he wasn't enjoying it very much. However, I never realized how much he was hurting until I read the "Hotseat" in-

(Continued on page 54)

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 52)

terview with him in the January 1991 issue.

Why should any man be forced to have his dirty laundry aired in public? The marriage that he and Jeannie had should be a private matter between the two of them. Instead, Jeannie went on national TV programs and told intimate secrets about her former husband.

I haven't seen much of Adams lately, and, in a way, I'm glad. If Adams and Steve Austin are separated, it means that Jeannie and Toni can't resume their war. The sport is better off without this kind of raw hatred.

MARY POLLAN
Ft. Worth, TX

A PREMONITION

After reading the story about Jerry Lawler's first meeting with Terry Funk in nine years in the January 1991 issue ("Jerry Lawler vs. Terry Funk: A Bloody Explosion Of Pent-Up Hatred"), I knew that it was the rekindling of another major feud. Funk and Lawler simply despise each other too

For the sake of wrestling, Terry Funk and Jerry Lawler never should have resumed their bloody feud of year ago, writes reader Leonard Andrews.

much to let their bad feelings die after only one match.

Perhaps Lawler might have been better off dropping the matter. Today, Funk is the USWA champion, and he nearly murdered Lawler in winning the belt from him. Both Funk and Lawler are now brawling all over the country, and it's the bloodiest feud I've seen in years.

You gave Tri-State President Joel Goodhart credit for bringing these two men together again. Personally, I think he should have left well enough alone and let the feud die. These matches are horrifying!

LEONARD ANDREWS
Memphis, TN

ATLAS' FOLLY

The article in the January 1991 issue claims that Tony Atlas' new image has helped him ("How Saba Simba Saved Tony Atlas' Career"), but I don't

Saba Simba should drop the headdress and go back to being just plain Tony Atlas, says reader Lane Miller.

agree at all. Atlas was once a proud American athlete. Now he's just another feathered turkey in the WWF circus.

Wise up, Tony. Drop the Saba Simba image and come back to the fans who have admired you for years.

LANE MILLER
Portland, OR ☐

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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 12)

How about Governor Sting? He's honest, loyal, strong, and decisive. Perhaps he's more of a national figure, but to me Sting is a real down-home kind of man.

Comptroller. In a two-way race between Ted DiBiase and Mike Rotundo, DiBiase wins handily because he has more experience with handling large sums of money; Rotundo only recently came into his fortune.

DiBiase has yet to win a title since entering the WWF, but he's still one of the richest men I know of. Sure, he throws his money around, but he must be exercising sound management somewhere along the line to assure a constant cash flow.

Perhaps many people wouldn't trust their money in DiBiase's hands, but DiBiase is, after all, the "Million-Dollar Man." We wouldn't have to worry about embezzlement because he doesn't need your money!

Senator. A senator must maintain loyalty to his local constituency while doing what's best for the entire country. This is a job for a man who can weigh his values, look at the big picture, and isn't afraid to introduce new and controversial legislation. He also must be willing to stand up to special-interest lobbying groups.

Jerry Lawler would be perfect for the job. Throughout his career, Lawler has managed to maintain his loyalty to the people of Memphis while establishing himself as one of the best-known wrestlers in the world.

As AWA World champion, Lawler set up his home base in Memphis, but still managed to wrestle champions from several federations.

Congressman. The job is similar to that of a senator. The difference is that there are only two U.S. senators in each state while there are several congressmen.

***Senator* Jerry Lawler? "The King's" popularity and experience would make him an excellent addition to the halls of Congress, writes Dave Rosenbaum.**

They're elected by district, and, therefore, maintain a much closer relationship with those they serve. They are, in fact, "national" local figures.

Kevin Von Erich seems like a good man for this job. He's a family man who's spent his entire life in Denton, Texas. In fact, Kevin would be almost a sure winner if he ever ran for office in Denton.

Again, he's trustworthy and would show interest in the people he served.

President. This nation needs a solid thinker with a strong hand and a compassionate heart. Let's face it, former President Ronald Reagan was a brawler. President George Bush keeps bouncing back and forth from fan favorite to rulebreaker; he's more the Barry Windham type.

Several years ago (in the September 1987 issue of our sister publication, *Sports Review Wrestling*), we nominated Hulk Hogan for President. On second thought, that really wouldn't work out. Hogan is immensely popular and probably would win any election in a walk, but he's too much of a tough guy. Hogan's solution to world problems would be to send in the troops and blow everything up.

My pick for the job—and this might come as a surprise—is Ric Flair.

Face it: He has brains, he has the looks to win a political campaign (he's a great dresser), he has charisma, he's a thinker in the ring, and he already knows how to work with other people (The Four Horsemen are Flair's cabinet).

Of course, he's a cheater. Then again, that qualifies him even more for the job. What politician *doesn't* cheat?

Couldn't you just see an imposter Gorbachev hoax at the next summit? □

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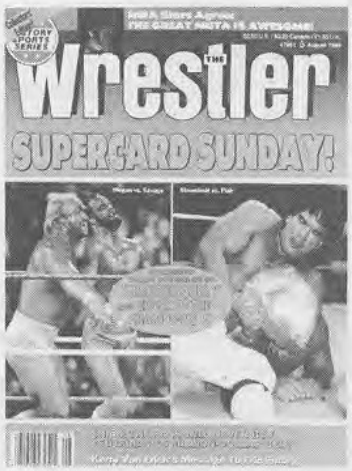

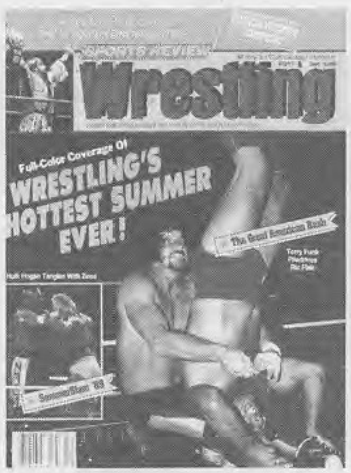

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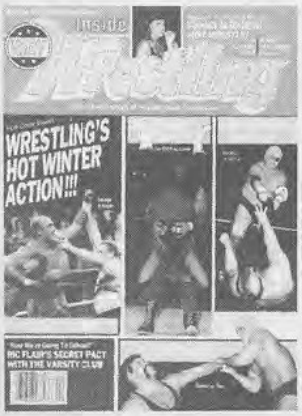

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A dynamic special section in the April 1989 issue of *Inside Wrestling* offered four pages of FULL-COLOR coverage of: The Survivor Series, SuperClash III, Battlestarr 88, and Clash of the Champions—Season's Beatings. Plus, an in-depth analysis places all these cards in historical perspective.

◄ SPECIAL ISSUE #3

The December 1989 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling* called it "Wrestling's Hottest Summer Ever!"—and indeed it was! In that issue, readers saw four pages of glorious FULL-COLOR coverage of the NWA's Great American Bash and the WWF's SummerSlam '89. A very special editorial section offered exclusive in-depth analysis of both events.

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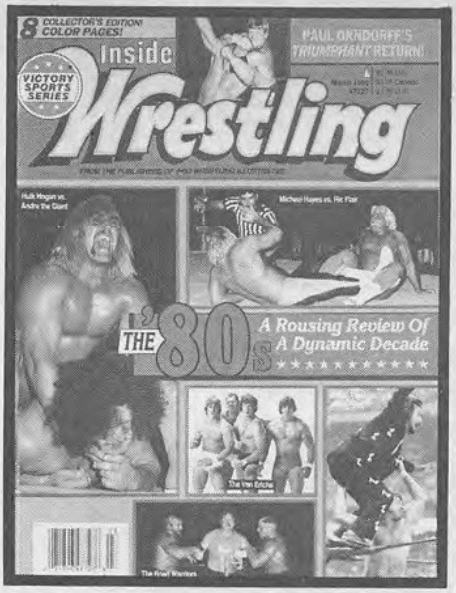

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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 14)

News Item: NWA Cancels Halloween Havoc Investigation

"Investigations are costly, and they are very difficult to conduct" said an NWA source. "Besides, Sting isn't too upset about the situation since he ended up with the victory in the match."

This is the kind of message federations should send to their wrestlers—if they want to promote anarchy. Investigations lead to fines and suspensions, the only way federations have to control the behavior of their grapplers. By ignoring the situation, the NWA is, in effect, saying: "Hey, you guys, you want to send an impostor into the ring? Go right ahead! We don't care. It's all in good fun, right?"

The evidence is clear, damn it! Just review the match films and dole out the proper fines and punishments. Otherwise, these animals will take advantage of every weakness and ruin wrestling forever.

News Item: Experts Predict Hulk Hogan Will Recapture WWF Title

Not exactly going out on a limb, are they? Given the dearth of top talent in the WWF, Hogan always stands a good chance to regain his crown—but not from The Ultimate Fruitcake. Hogan's mat game is perfectly suited for Warrior; as long as Warrior is champion, Hogan has no chance of wearing it again. But there are so many wrestlers (Randy Savage,

The NWA should have levied fines and suspensions regarding the Halloween Havoc incident in which Sid Vicious pinned an impostor Sting, writes Ellner.

Hulk Hogan will eventually regain the WWF World title, but not from The Ultimate Warrior, according to Ellner; all the "Hulkster" has to do is wait.

Curt Hennig, Kerry Von Erich) who can defeat Warrior—and who Hogan can best two at a time—that, for the "Hulkster," it's all just a matter of waiting.

News Item: Hunk Bonds Invade NWA

Mike Rotundo should be used to shadows. His alma mater, Syracuse University, could never quite emerge from the shadow of fellow Big East basketball power Georgetown. He always took second billing to his WWF partner Barry Windham, as clear an indication as any that star billing was not in his stars.

Now, having the dumb luck to inherit a few million bucks, Rotundo adopts a new moniker and hires a curvy business school grad—all in the shadow of a giant recession.

Flaunting his wealth should really endear him to the thousands of fans struggling to get by in hard times. These fans would be wise to register their protests and boycott all Wall Street Mike's matches. That way, Ted Turner would fire him; he would squander all his wealth on his young floozy who would leave him when he runs out of cash, putting him back to square one: a notch-above-prelim grappler with zippo personality. □

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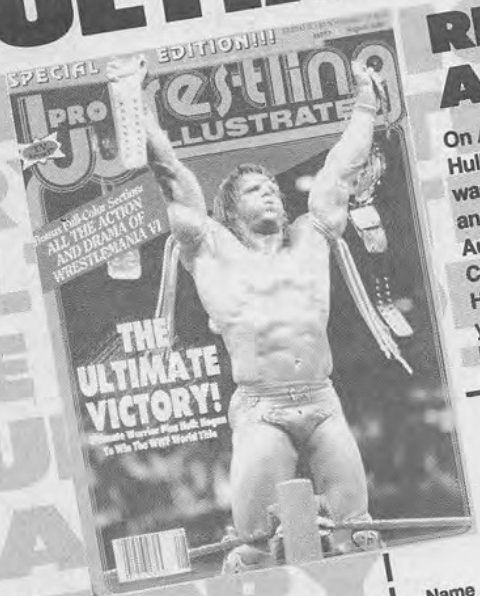

On April 1, 1990, history was made in Toronto, Ontario, as The Ultimate Warrior pinned Hulk Hogan at WrestleMania VI to capture the WWF World title. *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* was there, and now you can relive all the drama and excitement of this historic match—and of the entire event! Order our special WrestleMania VI edition of *PWI*, cover-dated August 1990, and you'll receive a once-in-a-lifetime magazine graced with eight FULL-COLOR pages of WMVI coverage . . . including our exclusive "timeline" coverage of the Hogan-Warrior main event! Plus, you'll receive all our regular stories and features. If you don't have this magazine in your permanent collection, you should! Supplies are limited, so order today!

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(Continued from page 16)

wrestle a clean match, we'd have a classic to look back upon for years.

But that's what I mean. Kerry is so aggressive and he's such a fine counter-wrestler that I really thought he'd be able to hold on to the belt for a long time.

That's what his brother, Kevin Von Erich, thought.

"I'm disappointed," Kevin said. "We're all a bit disappointed, and I know Kerry is, too. I'm sure he'll get the belt back, but Kerry was looking forward to a long title reign. You see, he really hates Hennig, and he had it in mind to teach Hennig a lesson about cheating. Heck, he really hates Bobby Heenan, but that's another story. *Everybody* hates Heenan."

Of course, it's unfair to blame Heenan for Hennig's evil ways. Bad boy Curt was a bad boy long before he signed a WWF contract. He was once managed by Madusa Miceli, and you know what great things *she's* gone on to.

Got it? She's evil, he's evil, he'll probably *always* be evil. Hennig is a man with all the goods but none of the heart.

He's not likely to change now, not when his bad ways won him two I-C titles. Hennig has been a great success story in the WWF. He entered the federation and was asked to work his way up from the bottom. He called himself "Mr. Perfect," setting himself up for a fall, but he worked his way up without a hitch.

He eventually lost some matches, but look where he is now. Hennig, you'd be interested in knowing, hasn't done it all by cheating. Sure, there's been a healthy dose of illegalities thrown in, but the skills have always been there and they always *will* be there.

Von Erich and his family were all disappointed when he lost the belt. Kevin Von Erich says Kerry really took the loss to heart. Hunter writes that she's looking forward to more Hennig-Von Erich bouts.

As for Kerry, everybody's saying he'll quickly regain the title. Well, that's what everybody said when Kerry lost the NWA World title to Ric Flair. He was young, he was on his way up . . . and he never won it again.

Kerry's had a great career and he's bounced back from a lot of adversity (that damn motorcycle accident in Texas keeps coming to mind), but bouncing back from a title loss has never been one of his strong suits. It usually takes him some time.

"He really takes his losses to heart," Kevin said. "Last time I talked to him, he was really depressed. The sad thing is, there's no talking him out of it. He's really set in his ways and, to him, there's nothing worse than losing to a rulebreaker."

The Hennig-Von Erich war will continue for some time. Maybe the title will change hands several times over the next few months.

Still, remember this: men like Hennig do everything in their power to protect what's theirs. If Hennig cheated before, he'll cheat even more now. He had a taste of being champion, then he had a taste of not being champion. You can guess which one he liked more. You can guess how hard he'll try to be champion again.

Hennig is a great, determined wrestler. Von Erich is a great, determined wrestler, and the WWF can be proud of this feud.

As for me, I'll check the calendar every week. And when these guys wrestle, I'll try to be there. □

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☐ OCT 76	☐ NOV 80	☐ SEPT 83	☐ NOV 85	☐ NOV 87	☐ JAN 90
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ONE-HOUR DRAW

(Continued from page 29)

Perez and Keirn congratulate each other after the grueling contest. The fans were so impressed by what they'd seen they gave Perez and Keirn a standing ovation.

had Keirn in a pinning position.

But time ran out.

"I guess it was justice," Perez said. "Both of us wrestled so well, neither deserved to lose."

"If time hadn't run out and I was pinned, Lou would've been a worthy champion," Keirn said. "As it was, both of us got rewarded."

Keirn retained his title. Perez retained his position as the number-one contender. Both men received a rousing roar of support and approval from the Sportatorium crowd.

"If this was the WWF, the fans would have been yelling, 'Boring!' " said George Brecker, a fan who attended the match. "But this is what wrestling's all about, and I'm glad I was here for it. Maybe I wouldn't want to see matches like these all the time, but it's nice to see them once in a while."

Perhaps even "once in a while" is too much to ask. We'd probably get spoiled. We'd probably end up longing for the good ol' days of rulebreakers and foreign objects.

A perfect diamond is so valuable because it's so rare.

A beautiful woman is a sight to behold.

A perfect sunset makes the heart stop.

These things are so coveted because they are so precious.

Matches like Keirn vs. Perez come once a year—if we're lucky.

"Actually, they're too tiring to happen more often," Keirn said. "If I had to do that twice a week, I'd be in big trouble. I certainly wouldn't have my title."

But Keirn is still champion. A deserving champion.

And Lou Perez, who fought him to the limit, would be just as deserving, too. □

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The NWA's greatest wrestlers converge in Washington D.C., for a Congress of Capital Combat! Sting & Robocop make a special appearance to watch six-time champ Ric Flair & Lex Luger in a steel cage for the Championship. Also: The Steiners vs. Doom; Fly'n Brian & Z-Man vs. Midnight Express, Rock 'n Roll's, etc.

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Ric Flair regains the NWA belt from Rick Steamboat on May 7, 1989 in Nashville. Some call it the match of the decade! Also: Lex Luger vs. Michael Hayes, Road Warriors vs. Rotundo & Williams; and more!

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Lex Luger could have won the NWA title from Ric Flair, but saving Sting from a crippling attack from the Andersons took priority! Also: Steiners vs. Andersons, Road Warriors vs. Skyscrapers and more!

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INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

1—**STING**
(1) NWA World champion
2—**ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
(2) WWF World champion
3—**CURT HENNIG**
(6) WWF I-C champion
4—**RANDY SAVAGE**
(5) No. 2 contender: WWF title
5—**SID VICIOUS**
(7) No. 2 contender: NWA title
6—**KERRY VON ERICH**
(3) No. 1 contender: I-C champion
7—**STAN HANSEN**
(4) U.S. champion
8—**LEX LUGER**
(8) No. 1 contender: U.S. title
9—**EARTHQUAKE**
(-) No. 3 contender: WWF title
10—**STEVE KEIRN**
(10) PWF champion
11—**TERRY FUNK**
(-) USWA champion
12—**HULK HOGAN**
(11) No. 4 contender: WWF title
13—**ARN ANDERSON**
(12) NWA TV champion
14—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
(14) AWA World champion
15—**STEVE DOLL**
(-) PNW champion

NWA

1—**STING**
(1) 260, Venice Beach, CA
2—**STAN HANSEN**
(2) 322, Borger, TX
3—**SID VICIOUS**
(3) 318, West Memphis, AK
4—**LEX LUGER**
(4) 268, Chicago, IL
5—**BLACK SCORPION**
(5) ???, parts unknown
6—**TERRY TAYLOR**
(8) 225, Vero Beach, FL
7—**JUNKYARD DOG**
(9) 305, Charlotte, NC
8—**ARN ANDERSON**
(6) 249, Minneapolis, MN
9—**RIC FLAIR**
(7) 243, Minneapolis, MN
10—**TOM ZENK**
(15) 237, Minneapolis, MN
11—**MIKE ROTUNDO**
(12) 245, Syracuse, NY
12—**BIG CAT**
(-) 308, Kansas City, KS
13—**BOBBY EATON**
(-) 233, Huntsville, AL
14—**BRIAN PILLMAN**
(-) 226, Cincinnati, OH
15—**NORMAN**
(10) 380, Saginaw, MI

WWF

1—**ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
(1) 280, Queens, NY
2—**CURT HENNIG**
(4) 235, Minneapolis, MN
3—**RANDY SAVAGE**
(3) 245, Sarasota, FL
4—**EARTHQUAKE**
(6) 462, Montreal, Quebec
5—**HULK HOGAN**
(7) 302, Venice Beach, CA
6—**KERRY VON ERICH**
(2) 260, Denton, TX
7—**TED DiBIASE**
(5) 247, Omaha, NB
8—**RICK MARTEL**
(-) 236, Quebec City, Quebec
9—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
(9) 310, Parris Island, SC
10—**BIG BOSSMAN**
(8) 358, Cobb County, GA
11—**TUGBOAT**
(-) 407, Pittsburgth, PA
12—**JAKE ROBERTS**
(15) 246, Stone Mountain, GA
13—**DINO BRAVO**
(10) 256, Montreal, Quebec
14—**DAVEY BOY SMITH**
(11) 245, Leeds, England
15—**SHANE DOUGLAS**
(-) 223, Pittsburgh, PA

AWA

1—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
(1) 248, Pittsburgh, PA
2—**TOMMY JAMMER**
(2) 245, San Diego, CA
3—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
(3) 275, Moscow, Russia
4—**THE TROOPER**
(4) 243, Charlotte, NC
5—**TATSUMI FUJINAMI**
(5) 231, Tokyo, Japan
6—**SCOTT NORTON**
(6) 360, Minneapolis, MN
7—**COL. DeBEERS**
(7) 248, Cape Town, S. Africa
8—**WAYNE BLOOM**
(8) 266, Minneapolis, MN
9—**LARRY CAMERON**
(9) 280, Chicago, IL
10—**BUCK ZUMHOFE**
(10) 222, Minneapolis, MN
11—**BRAD RHEINGANS**
(11) 248, Appleton, MN
12—**D.J. PETERSON**
(12) 245, St. Joseph, MO
13—**MIKE ENOS**
(13) 252, Minneapolis, MN
14—**JONNIE STEWART**
(14) 242, Pacific Palisades, CA
15—**JAKE MILLIMAN**
(15) 220, Minneapolis, MN

MOST POPULAR

1—**HULK HOGAN**
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
2—**STING**
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
3—**THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
4—**LEX LUGER**
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
5—**KERRY VON ERICH**
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
6—**JAKE ROBERTS**
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular
7—**BIG BOSSMAN**
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
8—**SCOTT STEINER**
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
9—**JERRY LAWLER**
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular
10—**TUGBOAT**
Last month: No. 11 Most Popular
11—**RICK STEINER**
Last month: No. 13 Most Popular
12—**STEVE DOLL**
Last month: unrated
13—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
Last month: No. 12 Most Popular
14—**JEFF JARRETT**
Last month: unrated
15—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
Last month: No. 14 Most Popular

MOST HATED

1—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated
2—**SID VICIOUS**
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
3—**EARTHQUAKE**
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
4—**STAN HANSEN**
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
5—**CURT HENNIG**
Last month: No. 14 Most Hated
6—**BLACK SCORPION**
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
7—**RICK MARTEL**
Last month: unrated
8—**RANDY SAVAGE**
Last month: No. 11 Most Hated
9—**EDDIE GILBERT**
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated
10—**TED DiBIASE**
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
11—**RIC FLAIR**
Last month: No. 9 Most Hated
12—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
Last month: unrated
13—**TERRY FUNK**
Last month: unrated
14—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
Last month: No. 15 Most Hated
15—**ARN ANDERSON**
Last month: No. 13 Most Hated

TAG TEAMS

1—**DOOM**
(1) NWA World tag team champions
2—**THE HART FOUNDATION**
(5) WWF World tag team champions
3—**RICK & SCOTT STEINER**
(2) U.S. tag team champions
4—**THE ROCKERS**
(3) No. 1 contenders: WWF tag title
5—**ARN ANDERSON & RIC FLAIR**
(4) No. 1 contenders: NWA tag title
6—**THE LEGION OF DOOM**
(7) No. 2 contenders: WWF tag title
7—**PAUL ROMA & HERCULES**
(13) No. 4 contenders: WWF tag title
8—**THE NASTY BOYS**
(6) No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag title
9—**THE GRAPPLER & THE EQUALIZER**
(-) PNW tag team champions
10—**JEFF JARRETT & CODY MICHAELS**
(-) USWA tag team champions
11—**DEMOLITON**
(11) No. 3 contenders: WWF tag title
12—**THE MASTER BLASTERS**
(12) No. 2 contenders: U.S. tag title
13—**THE UNDERTAKERS**
(15) ICW tag team champions
14—**THE ORIENT EXPRESS**
(-) No. 4 contenders: WWF tag title
15—**TOMMY RICH & RICK MORTON**
(-) No. 3 contenders: U.S. tag title

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended November 30, 1990

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
JOHNNY ACE & KENTA KOBASHI
(September 8, 1990; tournament final over The Fantastics; Fukui, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN
(July 27, 1990; for vacant title over Mitsuharu Misawa; Matsudo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT
(most recently held by Jumbo Tsuruta & Kabuki)

ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI
(October 20, 1989; from Joe Malenko; Nagoya, Japan)

ALL JAPAN WOMEN'S PACIFIC CHAMPION: MINAMI TOYODA
(October 7, 1990; for vacant title over Bison Kimura; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN
(July 27, 1990; for vacant title over Mitsuharu Misawa; Matsudo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: BULL NAKANO
(April 1, 1990; from Mitsuko Nishiwaki; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: KYOKO INOUE
(October 2, 1990; for vacant title over Takako Inoue; Yamagata, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
AKIRA HOKUTO & SUZUKA MINAMI
(February 7, 1990; from Grizzly Iwamoto & Aja Kong; Osaka, Japan)

AWA LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BUCK ZUMHOFE
(August 12, 1990; tournament final over Jonnie Stewart; Rochester, MN)

AWA WORLD CHAMPION: LARRY ZBYSZKO
(April 8, 1990; from Mr. Saito; St. Paul, MN)

AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE TROOPER & D.J. PETERSON
(August 11, 1990; from The Destruction Crew; Rochester, MN)

AWA WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: CANDI DEVINE
(December 6, 1989; tournament match over Judy Martin; Toronto, Ontario)

GEORGIA ALL-STAR CHAMPION: NICK BUSICK
(May 17, 1990; tournament final over Mike Golden; Lawrenceville, GA)

ICW CHAMPION: VIC STEAMBOAT
(July 24, 1990; from Tony Atlas; Middletown, NY)

ICW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE UNDERTAKERS
(Mar. 31, 1990; tournament final over Phil Apollo & Eric Sbracchia; Charlton, MA)

IWA (JAPAN) WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MADUSA MICELI
(September 14, 1989; tournament final over Beastie; Kumamoto, Japan)

IWA U.S. CHAMPION: PRESTON STEELE
(October 5, 1990; from Cactus Jack; Girard, OH)

IWA WOMEN'S CHAMPION: BAMBI
(March 25, 1990; from Peggy Lee Leather; Palmetto, FL)

IWGP CHAMPION: RIKI CHOSHU
(August 19, 1990; from Big Van Vader; Tokyo, Japan)

* **IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**
KENSUKE SASAKI & HIROSHI HASE
(November 2, 1990; from Great Muta & Masa Chono; Tokyo, Japan)

* **IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUSHIN RIGER**
(November 2, 1990; from The Pegasus Kid; Tokyo, Japan)

LPWA CHAMPION: SUSAN SEXTON
(by LPWA officials' decision)

LPWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
MISTY BLUE SIMMES & HEIDI LEE MORGAN
(March 13, 1990; tourney final over Bad Girl & Black Venus; Laughlin, NV)

NWA TV CHAMPION: ARN ANDERSON
(January 2, 1990; from The Great Muta; Gainesville, GA)

NWA WORLD CHAMPION: STING
(July 7, 1990; from Ric Flair; Baltimore, MD)

NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DOOM
(May 19, 1990; from Rick & Scott Steiner; Washington, DC)

NWL CHAMPION: JOHN RAMBO
(October 23, 1990; for held-up title over Cactus Jack; Mangilao, Guam)

NWL WOMEN'S CHAMPION: BAMBI
(October 23, 1990; from Peggy Lee Leather; Mangilao, Guam)

NWL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PAUL ORNDORFF & BRIAN BLAIR
(October 23, 1990; from The Disciples of Darkness; Mangilao, Guam)

* **PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: STEVE DOLL**
(November 10, 1990; from The Grappler; Portland, OR)

* **PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**
THE GRAPPLER & THE EQUALIZER
(November 3, 1990; from Larry & Rip Oliver; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TV CHAMPION: SCOTTY THE BODY
(March 17, 1990; from Ricky Santana; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN
(July 27, 1990; for vacant title over Mitsuharu Misawa; Matsudo, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INT'L TAG CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT
(most recently held by Jumbo Tsuruta & Kabuki)

PRO WRESTLING AMERICA CHAMPION: RICKY RICE
(September 22, 1990; from Jerry Lynn; Chicago, IL)

PWF (FLORIDA) CHAMPION: STEVE KEIRN
(July 9, 1989; from Kendall Windham; Orlando, FL)

PWF (FLORIDA) TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MARK STARR & SGT. ROCK
(September 13, 1990; from Hurricane Walker & Joe Gomez; Tampa, FL)

PWF (FLORIDA) LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JIM BACKLUND
(August 2, 1990; from Lou Perez; Tampa, FL)

SOUTH ATLANTIC HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT
(most recently held by Robert Fuller)

SOUTH ATLANTIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE PIT BULLDOGS
(September 11, 1990; from The Nasty Boys; Columbia, SC)

TEXAS LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ERIC EMBRY
(by TWF officials' decision)

TEXAS HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: AL PEREZ
(by TWF officials' decision)

U.S. CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN
(October 27, 1990; from Lex Luger; Chicago, IL)

U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK & SCOTT STEINER
(August 24, 1990; from The Midnight Express; East Rutherford, NJ)

* **USWA CHAMPION: TERRY FUNK**
(November 8, 1990; from Jerry Lawler; Memphis, TN

USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: EDDIE GILBERT
(October 29, 1990; from Jeff Jarrett; Memphis, TN)

* **USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JEFF JARRETT & CODY MICHAELS**
(November 24, 1990; from Doug Gilbert & Tony Anthony; Jonesboro, AR)

UWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BIG VAN VADER
(November 22, 1989; from El Canek; Mexico City, Mexico)

WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: KIM DUK
(September 8, 1990; from Invader I; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

* **WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SUPER MEDICS**
(November 10, 1990; from Eric Embry & Rick Valentine; Bayamon, P.R.)

* **WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BILLY TRAVIS**
(November 3, 1990; from Hurricane Castillo Jr.; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT
(most recently held by Manny Fernandez)

WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE TEXAS HANGMEN
(September 29, 1990; from The Super Medics; Carolina, Puerto Rico)

WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON
(March 31, 1990; from Abdullah the Butcher; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

* **WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MONSTER RIPPER**
(November 10, 1990; from Sasha; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

* **WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: CURT HENNIG**
(November 19, 1990; from Kerry Von Erich; Rochester, NY)

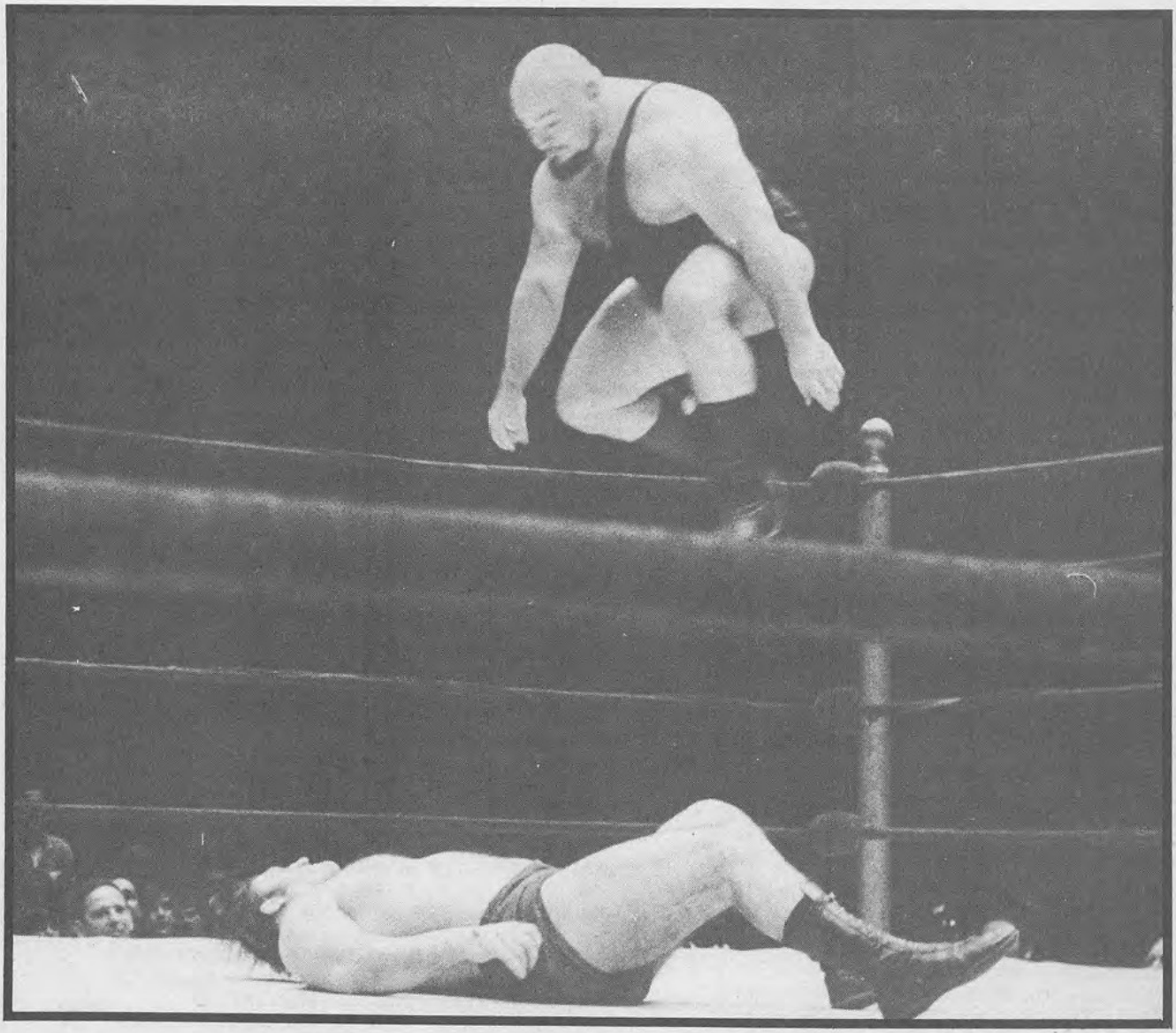
WWF WORLD CHAMPION: THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR
(April 1, 1990; from Hulk Hogan; Toronto, Ontario)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRET HART & JIM NEIDHART
(August 27, 1990; from Demolition; Philadelphia, PA)

WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: ROCKIN' ROBIN
(October 7, 1988; from Sherri Martel; Paris, France)

Blast From The Past
This Month In Wrestling History

"THE IMPOSSIBLE HAPPENS"



IVAN KOLOFF vs. BRUNO SAMMARTINO
January 18, 1971

Bruno Sammartino had held the WWF World title for nearly eight years. Few expected Ivan Koloff, who had fallen in defeat to the "Living Legend" many times before, to have much of a chance against Sammartino. Imagine the shock that ricocheted through New York's Madison Square Garden when the "Russian Bear" scored with a kneedrop from the top rope and pinned Bruno for the title before a stunned standing-room-only crowd. Many upsets occurred during the '70s, but this one is considered the biggest of them all.

COMING JANUARY 1

THE BIG ONE

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- Your own "Unofficial/Official Awards" for 1990
- Predictions for 1991
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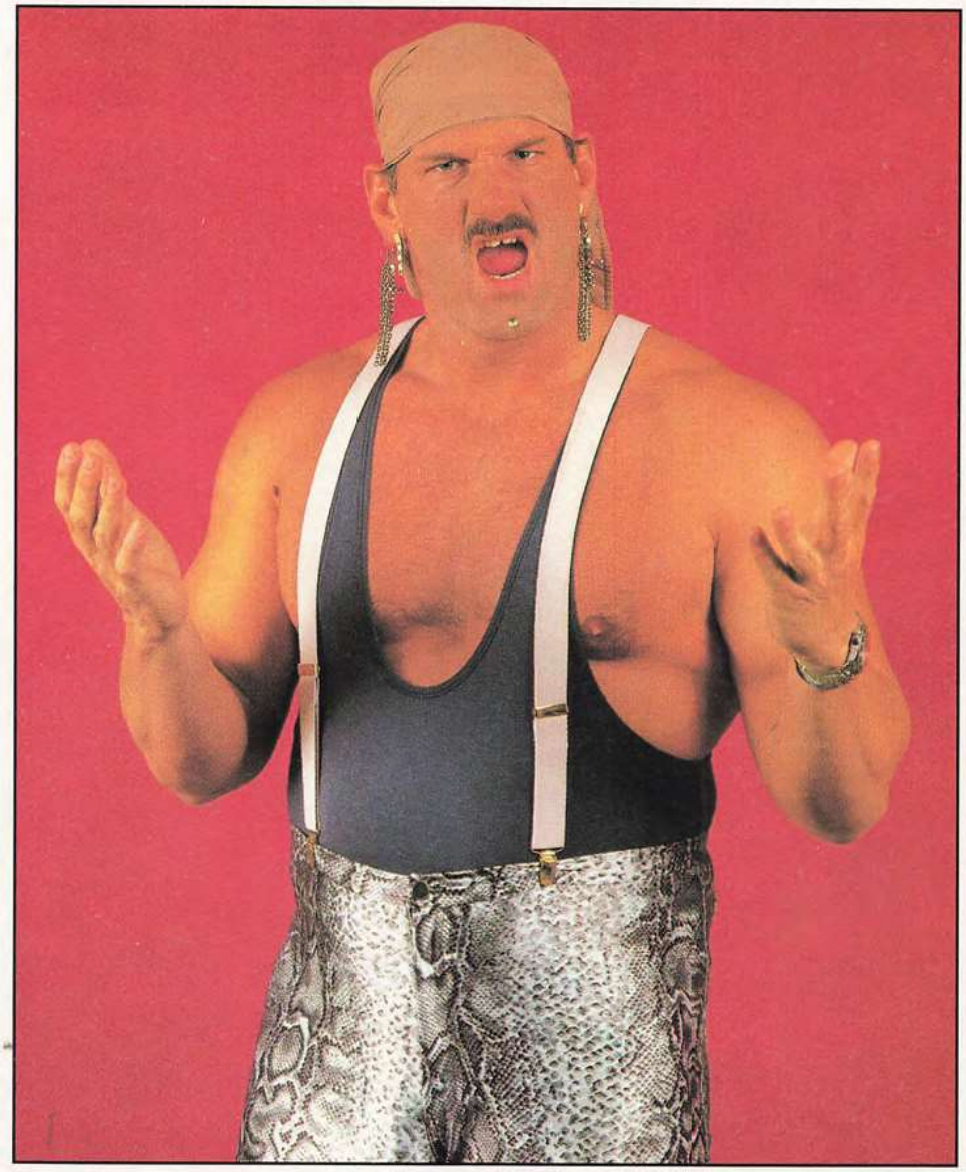

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